

No. 65,473

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Venables quits to pursue legal battle with Sugar



TERRY VENABLES is to stand down as England football coach after the European championships this summer to concentrate on a series of court cases arising from his long-running dispute with Alan Sugar and allegations about his business dealings.

In an announcement yesterday, the Football Association

attempt to qualify for the 1998 World Cup because he feared that a "number of time-consuming legal battles" would interfere with his work.

Venables made up his mind last month, but the announcement was delayed as the FA asked him to reconsider over Christmas. The association will now set about finding a successor, with Kevin Keegan the front-runner.

Venables's decision to go at the end of his two-and-a-half-

stream of media stories about his past financial activities. and he is known to believe that there has been an orchestrated campaign to discredit him since his departure from Tottenham in 1993. The FA said yesterday that he was deter-

fined to clear his name. His wrongful dismissal case against Tottenham and its chairman, Mr Sugar, is likely to be heard in autumn and he also has three libel actions outstanding: one against PanMirror, and one in which he is being sued by Mr Sugar.

that he was going because the cases could be "problemati-cal". "We would have a World Cup qualifying game around October or November and I could be in court for several weeks. I think it's a bit of an embarrassment to the FA, but in the circumstances I have made the decision and it gives them time to get somebody

He ruled out a change of heart even if England, as host country, won the European Championships in June. And asked if he might return at some time in the future, he replied: "I haven't thought that far ahead."

Venables's uncertainty about his future was not helped by the 14-man international committee to which he reports. Members have been wondering for months whether it was wise to extend his contract because of the poten-

tial for damaging publicity about his business dealings. Similar doubts were expressed before his appointment in January 1994 and the FA chief executive. Graham Kelly, admitted at the time there has been a very concerted lobby against him getting the job. But the FA followed the advice of Jimmy Armfield, who said that managers and players believed Venables to

be the best candidate. Yesterday, Mr Kelly said:

Balloonist

lands after

SOS over

Atlantic

FROM QUENTIN LETTS

AN AMERICAN balloonist's attempt to circumnavigate the globe came to grief off Canada vesterday. Steve Fossett, St., a Chicago banker, managed to

land his one-man balloon, Solo Challenger, on a field in New Brunswick hours after it seemed he would ditch in the

potentially deadly waters of

Mr Fossett jettisoned be-longings to reduce weight as he fought to keep the balloon

above the waves after burner

problems developed. He acti-

vated his emergency beacon at

7.16am in poor conditions -

snow, wind and cloud cover at 2,000 ft - but with visibility

down to a mile, rescuers spent

the morning trying to locate

Two helicopters, a Hercules

aeroplane and a coastguard

cutter were sent to the Bay of

Fundy to seek the stricken balloon. Discarded items from

the balloon were found in the

water, initially creating un-

ease among rescuers, but set-

ting a trail to the field where it

Richard Branson's balloon,

Global Challenger, will take

off from Marrakesh. Morocco,

at the weekend - and so will a

Dutch balloon, Unicef Fiver,

from The Netherlands.

his balloon.

had landed.

the North Atlantic.

people. The progress he has made, his influence within the FA and influence on the game generally all reflect well upon the decision to appoint him." Venables, 51, played for England at every level and had a successful managerial career before becoming chief executive at Tottenham. Since he took over as the national coach, England have played 14 friendly internationals, winning six and losing only one.

Football's disbelief, page 4

THE MOTHER.

THE WIFE, THE MONARCH

On Saturday in

part of our serialisation

of Elizabeth, an

intimate portrait by the

acclaimed biographe

of George VI

Tomorrow, Valerie

Grove meets Sarah

Bradford, who drew

upon previously

memoits and interviews

to write her

authoritative biography

of a wife, mother and

monarch in her

seventieth year

ONLY IN THE TIMES

ON SATURDAY AND

ALL NEXT WEEK

The Times, the first

Israelis hail King Husain's peace trip

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEL AVIV

KING HUSAIN of Jordan yesterday became the first Arab monarch to visit Tel Aviv, winning the hearts and minds of its 400,000 people by declaring himself "among friends" and boosting the chances of peace in the Middle

In the most dramatic personal gesture since President Sadat of Egypt arrived in beginning of the end of old hostilities nearly 20 years ago. the Jordanian leader defied the enemies of peace from both the Jewish and Islamic

Straight-backed, he showed not a flicker of fear although it took a quarter of the whole Israeli police force to protect him in an operation which all but shut down this most

Jewish of cities. We love him. We admire him more than any other Arab leader," said Perry Meraz, 50, an import agent who stood for more than four hours to catch a glimpse of the royal notor-cade sweeping by. "We will never forget that it was his grandfather [King Abdullah] who was the first Arab leader to die in the cause of bringing

Excellent

short break Thistle hor

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Jews and Arabs together."

The centrepiece of the trip was the opening of a trauma surgical unit at the hospital where Yitzhak Rabin died nine weeks ago. In a moving ceremony, the Jordanian monarch built on the deep impression he had left by his eloquent address at Rabin's funeral. With a sincerity of tone that affected even Jewish cynics among the 700-strong audience at the Ichilov hospital, he described Leah Rabin as "my sister" and said: "To be very frank, I feel at home here and

among friends." He was standing under a huge portrait of Rabin surrounded by thousands of redand-white carnations and near to television monitors which only minutes before had shown a film of past Israeli and Jordanian wars.

The obvious failure of Rabin's right-wing Jewish assassin to halt the peace process on November 4 was demonstrated by the presence in the hospital of two Jordanian military officers undergoing treatment there.

Until the soldiers were shown on television, many ordinary Israelis could scarce ly believe that Jordanian miliopenly coming to Tel Aviv for treatment. One was the victim of a helicopter accident and the other was wounded while serving in Bosnia.

"We are all the sons of Abraham," the king said be-fore helping to unveil a memo-rial wall to Rabin less than half a mile from the spot where he was shot.

The king, who defied criticism from Arabs at home to make his first official visit to Israel, infuriated the Palestine Liberation Organisation by visiting the largest Jewish city before travelling once to any of the areas they have "liberated" from Israeli occupation. "It is wrong of King Husain to visit Israel," said Jibril al-Rajoub, head of PLO security in the

West Rank It fell to Gabi Barbash. director general of the hospital to answer the question being asked by every Tel Avivian I interviewed. "Until today, we have not been able to figure out why the Israeli people have so much affection for you despite wars, casualties and animosity that lasted for years," he told the Sandhursteducated monarch.

"Your tears during the funeral, your majesty, melted our hearts." These were the tears of a friend. The peace is not just a piece cor of paper. Peace is people, daily life and an outstretched hand."

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, told the king: "I do not know any other element that can unite us more than your visit to our country."



I am feeling fine, says woman who was pronounced dead

BY TIM JONES AND JOANNA BALE

THE woman who came back from the dead said yesterday that she felt fine as the doctor who declared her dead

apologised. Daphne Banks, who is still recovering in hospital, looked pale but was able to walk unaided as she appeared with her husband, Claude, at a news conference. She refused to comment on her experience and would only say: "I'm fine, thank you."

Her solicitor, Anthony Northey, said that Mrs Banks, 61, had attempted suicide with an overdose at her home in Stonely, near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, on New Year's Eve. David Roberts, a GP who is based in the nearby village of Great Staughton, Mr Northey said: "Daphne

and Claude Banks have had the opportunity of reflecting carefully over the recent traumatic events and the various options open to them. They have decided against making any formal complaint to the Family Health Services Authority or the General Medical Council or the Health Service Ombudsman. They have also decided that they do not intend to institute legal proceedings.

Obviously the doctor in ques-tion made an error of judgment, but luckily the error has not had fatal consequences." He added: "The family are just extremely grateful and relieved that Daphne is alive and making very good progress. Daphne unfortunately suffers from epilepsy. As a result, she was not able to

drive. Because of her increas-

ing years she was no longer to walk into the village of Kimbolton, some distance from her home. She felt very lonely and isolated and started to suffer from depression.

"On New Year's Eve it came to a head. She could not face going on. She took a large quantity of her epilepsy tablets and also some sleeping tablets. She climbed into bed and just drifted off to sleep."

Mr Northey said Mr Banks had found his wife in the early hours of New Year's Day. He had called the ambulance service who arranged for a GP to attend the home. Dr Roberts examined Mrs Banks and told Mr Banks that she was dead. The doctor then called

Ken Davison, a family friend, spotted a varicose vein

twitching, then heard her snore, soon after she was delivered to the mortuary of Hinchingbrooke Hospital at about 4.30am. An emergency resuscitation team was called and she was taken to an intensive care ward. After three days in intensive care Mrs Banks was transferred to a general ward where she took

get-well call from John Major, their local MP. Mr Northey revealed that Mrs Banks had little recollection of the next five days. He said: "Her next recollection was of her daughter leaning over her for a few brief seconds. She promptly went back to sleep but then drifted in and out of consciousness for Continued on page 2, col 5

Body and Mind, page 16

improvement in examination results

The latest scheme is the idea of Bob

Salisbury, the head teacher, who said:

"Every parent we spoke to already took their children out. It is a

preposterous notion that the vouchers

will be used for booze. They are only usable for meals with the family.

inventive to reward pupils, but when-

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Bitter row over school's pub-voucher prizes BY JOHN O'LEARY EDUCATION EDITOR

Photograph, page 22

THE HEADMASTER of a comprehensive school was accused of encour-aging under-age drinking yesterday by offering pub luncheon vouchers as form prizes to children as young as 11. Pupils at Garibaldi School in Mansfield. Nottinghamshire, are being awarded £10 vouchers towards meals with their parents as term prizes for Only sixth-formers, many legally-entitled to drink alcohol, are excluded.

Classmates have voted for the most descrying recipients of the first vouchers, to be presented next week by Bill McCosh, managing director of Mansfield Brewery and a school governor. Vouchers can be cashed at the brewery's pubs which serve meals. But the scheme has aroused contro-

versy. Richard Willis, executive director of the National Committee for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Dependency, said: "This will initiate children into the whole psychology of drinking. It will get them used to public buses."

The local Methodist minister, the Rev Norman Bray, said: "The less familiar young people are with the inside of public houses, the better . . . I don't think the school should be doing anything which might lead to young people turning to drink."

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you must expect criticism."

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المكنات الأعل

Classless ticket for man on the Lords omnibus

Toffs, they say, can min-gle with the opposite end of the social scale more easily than with the middle classes. Both ends have so much in common: horse-racing, wayward kids. the problems of illiteracy. debt, gin, rising damp and

This truth is plain, watching a House of Lords debate.

You might as well be on the top deck of a number 15 London bus to Poplar and Canning Town. Everyone's terribly matey, everyone has his opinion, few know anything about it, half of them

everyone enjoys a laugh, and the world takes no notice

One difference, though, is that the lower orders pay £1.20 to travel on a bus from Piccadilly Circus to Poplar while the views they express en route are not recorded; but members of the Upper Chamber can claim a day subsistence allowance of £33 when attending a debate, and their views are printed in Hansard. Also, people are better dressed on the bus, and the insane can he ejected by the conductor. The Lord Chancellor on his woolsack adopts a more de-



ines tickets once they have let

you on board. Yesterday in the Lords, two new peers were admitted. The Baroness Hayman and Lord Sewel were introduced. This, the noble equivalent of presenting your season photopass (for life), involves a good deal of to-ing and fro-ing and bowing by people dressed in

After the ceremonials, the Lord Chancellor told them all

to hold very tight, ting-ting for,

rather, "hear-hear") and the journey commenced. The first discussion on our noble bus was about pensions and was initiated by the Baroness Strange in a home-knitted cardi. She said there were as many as "8,000 ladies in limbo" waiting for widows" pensions, and it was a disgrace. Another of their ladyships observed that some people might die before they got their pensions, and an annoyed muttering began. One peer wondered why the unemployed couldn't be drafted in to do something useful. like processing pension appli-cations. Ting-ting. And the bus moved on.

... To air pollution. Lord Campbell of Croy wanted to know what the government minister was going to do about it, especially "particulates from diesel". Lord Campbell of Alloway (Campbells and Mackays in the Lords are like Smiths and Patels in Poplar) grew restive: "What is a particulate? What's it all about?" Everyone laughed. Few knew.

Viscount Goschen explained the difference between diesel and petrol: "One puts out emissions of one type, and the other puts out emissions of the other type." Noble heads

Lord Caldecote was especially bothered by lorries thundering past all the time. Lord Stoddart of Swindon wished we could all go back to trolley huses. Lady Seear had personal experience of the adverse effects of diesel fumes and ting-ting ...

We reached the European. Parliament. There were confused opinions about its costs. Lord Bruce of Donington

(Lord Angry) had a rant, his mates (used to it) chuckling. And what are they going to do about it?" he barked.

Ting-ting. A new bus. A debate on homoeopathy and alternative medicine. A nice, decent-sounding man with glasses called Lord Baldwin of Bewdley thought we should take it more seriously. In the queue behind him waited 26 peers, one a bishop, listed to speak. Each had examples (Lord Winston from his grandma): Some bore evidence of acupuncture, others of osteopathy. They discussed yoga

Ting-ting. I rang the bell.

loyalty of

Bill Cash

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Euro-sceptic Tory MP Bill Cash faces a heated

Less than two months after

being selected to fight the newly created seat of Stone,

Mr Cash has been heavily

criticised for his conduct in the

constituency and his decision

to vote against the Govern-ment Last night some officials

in the Staffordshire constitu-

ency warned him that they

would refuse to campaign for

him in the general election. He

was one of two Tory back-

benchers who voted against

the Government after a debate

on the European common

However, Mr Cash, at present the MP for Stafford, insisted last night that he had received "massive support" from officers of the association

for his decision to vote against

At a meeting with eight constituency officers tonight,

he is expected to be asked to

explain his actions and be

pressed on what one senior

official described as his "ap-

palling treatment" of local

Douglas Davis, chairman of

the Fullord and Meir Heath

selection in November. After

the withdrawal of the two

other candidates on the

shortlist, Mr Cash was elected

unopposed. Formal com-

plaints have been sent by local

activists to Conservative Cen-

tral Office, protesting over the way the association handled

the selection process, particularly in failing to call replace-ment candidates to fight

against Mr Cash.

the Government.

fisheries policy last month.

Conservatives.

Sinn Fein close to deal on weapons

peace process eased yester-day when Sinn Fein came dose to accepting a confiden-tial ministerial proposal that would allow the IRA to destroy its own arms. In its submission to the international commission on terrorist arms, the party said the proposal "may find acceptance among republicans. Sinn Fein has appeared to accept the Government's insistence that the process must be verified independently.

A Government source gave a guarded welcome to the Sinn Fein paper. However, it was pointed out that the the document also rejected the Government's demand for some weapons to be decom-missioned ahead of all-party

Plea for missing

A cross-party group of MPs signed a Commons motion calling on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to help to fund the National Missing Persons Bureau. Last year h meeting tonight with constitu-ency officials angered by what they regard as his disloy-alty to John Major and his failure to consult grassroot suggested the bureau should seek lottery funds, but an application was rejected in December. The charity helps police and families around Britain

Genetic adviser

An advisory committee on genetic testing is to be set up by the Health Department. The committee will ensure that genetic tests, which can show whether an individual is likely to suffer particular diseases, are supplied safely and used ethically. It will be chaired by the Rev John Polkinghorne, President of Queens' College, Cambridge.

BBC closes gap

BBC Television last year achieved its best ratings against ITV for six years. While the ITV share during the peak 6pm-10pm slot fell by 2.1 per cent to 41.5 per cent. BBCI recorded a 0.4 rise to 33.6 per cent. ITV's peak-time lead over BBCI narrowed by 2.5 per cent from 1994 totals to

Girls die in fire

Lisa Jackson, 5, her sister nock, 3, died in a fire at their council house home in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, early yesterday. Craig Jackson. 6, was in a critical but stable condition last night. Christine Jackson, 25, mother of Craig, Lisa and Tanya, had jumped from a window.

Dench double

Dame Judi Dench has been nominated for best actress and best actress in a musical in the 1996 Laurence Olivier Awards. Nominations for best actor include Michael Gambon. Daniel Massey and Alex Jennings. The winners will be announced at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, on February 18.

Jackpot claimed

The third National Lottery jackpot winner has claimed the last £14 million share of the £42 million payout from last week's double rollover draw, Camelot said yesterday. The ticketholder, like the first two, requested ao publicity. It was not known

£100,000 total



Labour leader welcomes Prime Minister 'yielding up' one-nation politics **Officials** question

Blair and Major clash on stakeholder society

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

TONY BLAIR claimed last night that John Major had abandoned one-nation politics with his rejection of the Labour leader's vision of a stakeholder society. The two leaders locked horns over Mr Blair's so-called "big idea" which both admitted could become the battleground for the next

Mr Major told a breakfast meeting of business leaders that Mr Blair had opened up "clear red water" with the Tories by suggesting that he was returning to corporatism. The Labour leader had committed a "fundamental political error" as the stakeholders he envisaged were really special interest groups such as the trade unions. What I believe we are

seeing is the tip of a plan which is nothing better than fancy packaging for new burdens on business of one sort or another," Mr Major said.

Mr Blair retaliated immedlately at a hastily arranged Westminster press briefing by welcoming the attack on his plans for a society in which everyone had a chance to succeed as "yielding up" onenation politics to Labour. He said it was absurd for Mr Major and Michael Heseltine to attack his vision as a means campaign but not if she seeks

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of giving power back to the trade unions. They used to say it was only soundbites. But now they are attacking the central economic ground that we have chosen."

Meanwhile. Tory MPs pleaded with Baroness Thatther not to rock the boat when she speaks tonight on the future of the Tory party. Her right-wing admirers, however, urged her not to compromise her beliefs in her lecture to the Centre for Policy Studies at the Swiss Bank Corporation in the City, although she is certain to back Mr Major and attack Mr Blair.

The disclosure by The Times that Lady Thatcher intended to warn her party against the perils of "lurching to the left" sent tremors through the Tory high command, although officials denied that Mr Major or Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party Chairman, contacted the former

prime minister yesterday. Fearing that Lady Thatcher's intervention could trigger another damaging bout of feuding between the rival Tory factions, Sir Patrick Cormack. MP for Staffordshire South, said on BBC Radio: "Of course, she could play a significant part in the election

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Major: Labour vote a "reckless gamble"

to factionalise the Conservative Party."

Jerry Haves. MP for Har-

low, said it was vital the party was not split on Europe. "We want her to make speeches but supporting the Conservative Party, supporting the Government, supporting us on Europe, not a further round of blood-letting. I urge her, and urge her friends to urge her not to tinker."

But Iain Duncan-Smith, MP for Chingford, said he hoped Lady Thatcher's speech would reaffirm her core Conservative beliefs. "I hope like many others that she will remind us what it is that

we stay Conservatives and what we actually believe in

Mr Blair, announcing that he was planning a special nessmen and politicians to flesh out the idea of a stakeholder society, said that Mr Major could only offer a mish-mash of reheated 1980s conservarism". It would be a battle between the future and the past, he said. "The Prime Minister has said this is where the bande of ideas is and he has made that clear this morning and we are delighted to join on that ground."

At his breakfast gathering. Mr Major warned voters against playing "Russian roulette with all the harrels loaded" by backing Labour at the polls. It would be a "reckless gamble" that risked throwing away the immense achievements of 16 Tory years. He accused Labour of press-

ing for an election because the party knew the people of Britain were about to benefit from a steadily improving economy, rising incomes and general feeling of being better off. They would like to have an election before that becomes increasingly apparent."

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Leading article and letters, page 19

Tireless Thatcher bestrides globe

Thatcher: spreads the message of her foundation but has learnt humbler tasks too since leaving office

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER.

that went with it. Baroness her days in somnolent spiendour in the House of Lords. In the last year alone she has visited first America, then Singapore, Rome, Madrid, Beijing, Hong Kong, Bahrain, America again, Japan, France, India, Venice, the fory Party conference in Blackpool. America. Indonesia and Australia.

The United States is now her and Sir Denis's second home. If she felt betrayed by her own countrymen she always gets a spectacular weithere and receives at least \$50.000 for appearances. sometimes making three speeches, and going to three drinks parties and a dinner in a day. She never discloses

how much she has made. Once when she changed planes in Hawaii at 3am with two hours to wait she insisted on being driven to see Pearl

Apart from several opera tions on her teeth, her friends say she is not the exhausted and bitter woman portrayed by her detractors, but is staggeringly fit for a septuagenarian. She still receives more than 1,000 letters a day, rises at 5am and never goes to bed before midnight.

While few people in the Far East have ever heard of Tony

IN the five years since she lost Harbor. Her two detectives, both her job and the home an assistant and Sir Denis act as her companions as she private jet, spreading the eco-nomic and political gospel of the Thatcher Foundation.

branch of the Conservative association, said: "Many people will see his unforgive able decision to vote against the Government as a greater evil than defecting from the party because it shows total disloyalty and is a slap in the face to Mr Major." Mr Cash has been under heavy criticism from some local Tories ever since his

Blair or Michael Portillo. Lady Thatcher only has to swing her handbag in Singapore and she is front page news. Yet the former prime minister has had to learn humbler tasks too. She has learnt to dial telephone numbers herself. remembered how to drive a car and how to cook more than scrambled

Women MPs fight to save all-female shortlists

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Labour women MPs vesterday began a campaign to protect all-female shortlists after this week's judgment in one constituency that the poli-cy amounted to sexual discrimination.

Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswornan, led calls for party leaders to appeal against a Leeds industrial tribunal's decision and, if that failed, to find another way of helping more women into

We remain totally and wholeheartedly committed to one of our fundamental principles, equality for women, and ensuring that our democracy is representative," she said.

Continued from page 1

This judgment is a serious but temporary setback but we will continue to find ways of achieving that objective.

There are signs that Labour leaders are increasingly wary about an appeal. They argue that it might not succeed or could be drawn out. Ms Harman and her colleagues believe that such caution would send the wrong message to would-be female candidates. They are also determined to counteract calls by Roy Hattersley to drop the

"silly" scheme immediately. The women's committee of the party's national executive, which includes Ms Harman, Short, will meet on Monday to draw up alternative schemes for the 14 constituencies where the process has been suspended, for use if an appeal fails.

Helen Jackson, co-chair woman of the 30 Labour women MPs, said that she would be urging Tony Blair and Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, to appeal against the judgment.

Party officials said last night that any decision about an appeal would have to wait until the tribunal's full written judgment had been received. They played down any chance of an alternative scheme being adopted election. before the next

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whether the winner was a syndicate or an individual.

Hospital

By midday yesterday The Times Christmas Appeal on behalf of the Royal Marsden Hospital Children's Cancer Unit had raised £91,366,57p. With donations still coming rebates due, the final figure is expected to approach £100,000. The hospital was "enormously grateful" to

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Mr Banks dabbed tears from his eyes

the next couple of days. On Friday, a

doctor explained what had happened but

what he told her did not seem to sink in.

Even now what actually happened seems

to be just a story about somebody else."

He said that Mrs Banks would not be

coming home for "a little while". She and

her husband wished to thank all hospital

staff, wellwishers and the undertakers

firm. Cobbold's, for their "timely

as he listened to the solicitor read the statement. Mr Northey said that the couple had been married for about 40 years and that Mr Banks was hoping that

Woman 'back from dead' feels fine

his wife would make a quick recovery. He said the couple had been offered considerable sums" for media interviews, but they had decided not to accept any offers and did not intend to give any press interviews.

Earlier yesterday, the local health authority said it planned to take "no further action" over the doctor who

wrongly pronounced Mrs Banks dead. Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission said Dr Roberts did not present a danger.

Last night Dr Roberts issued a statement through the Medical Defence Union: "I would like to say how sorry I am about what has happened and I am very pleased Mrs Banks is making good ogress. I have been in close contact with Mrs Banks and her family."

Body and Mind, page 16

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Bill Cash

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Church blocks the old road to fiery Hell with good intentions

TRADITIONAL images of helifire and damnation are wrong, says a Church of England report which criticises some past teachings for trying to trighten people too

'Sadistically expressed' views of eternal torment and punishment left "searing psychological scars on many", it says today. "Christians have professed appalling theologies which made God into a sadistic monster."

Hell should not be seen as eternal torment, but as nothingness, say the senior clergymen who drew up the report The Mystery of Salvation, by the Church's doctrine commission. They say Hell is the final and irrevocable "choos-ing of that which is opposed to God so completely and so absolutely that the only end is total non-being.

The report warns that Christians cannot afford to ignore the realities of damnation and final judgment. The Church had to communicate its belief in a "saving God ... in a society where there is no agreement about the peril in which we stand, and in which religious language has no natural and agreed reference

People have to be saved from sin and death, but society's missing sense of ultimate accountability "has meant losing the shape and meaning" of life. "What is clear, as the century moves to its close, is that for many people in our culture there are not only no more divine certainties, but no 'divine'."

Folk religion proved there was a continuing quest for God, but the form of worship had become a matter of personal choice. In defining the sins people need saving from, the report argues that the Church must take account of changes in society caused by feminism.

All the major branches of theology evolved in a context in which the dominant role of men passed for the most part unquestioned and indeed unnoticed." the report says While the core of sin is often represented as "overweening



Dr David Jenkins, top left: political hell is fascism; Dante, top right: heard sighs and loud wailings; Sartre, above left: simply, Hell is other people; Lord St John: selfishness

pride", if women had played a greater part in developing the concept of sin, they might have placed more emphasis on the failure to assert and take responsibility for oneself. The former Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev John Taylor, said that to tell people they were in peril would mean little when they were seeking self-fulfilment and satisfaction, when they "are having a very good time and their Lottery'number might

- undoubtedly people are in considerable peril, but they are not aware of this." Different cultures had different evils from which people desired salvation, he said.

come up on Saturday evening

People of the New Testament era lived in "a demonic world from which salvation was sought." Slaves in America 200 years ago might have been told to bear their suffering in this life because there were clouds of glory to come. But today, many people were not concerned about the afterlife. He said: Today there is a variety of things from which people need to be saved. Salvation is more thought of, rightly or wrongly, in terms of problems within this life rather than the life to come."

Asked whether people of other faiths could be saved, Bishop Taylor said: in God's hands." The Bishop of Newcastle,

the Right Rev Alec Graham, agreed. "In everbody's life there is evidence of some degree of virtue. But as to what is final and ultimate, matters rest in God's hands. We are quite clear that if and when we all wake up hereafter and we find that we have been saved, this will be solely by the grace of God," he said. The report is certain to

people see Hell.

Dr David Jenkins, the former Bishop of Durham, said: "I am afraid of contributing to Hell now and I would like to think God can save everyone from Hell. I don't think we can dodge our responsibilities but I don't believe He would keep us eternally in Hell."

Hell on earth was "what we produce when we follow our own interests and feelings

without regard to anyone else

politically, it is facism."

Lord St John of Fawsley,
former Leader of the House of Commons and Master of Emmanuel College Cambridge, said Hell on earth was standing in a rainstorm on the platform of an isolated railway station at 12.01 in the morning, knowing that the last train left at midnight. More seriously, it was "that state of total selfishness, ex-cluding all love of God and other human beings."

Malcolm Bradhury, au-

thor and literary critic, said Hell was a literary party at the Groucho club in London, being forced to listen to authors talking about money

This view echoed perhaps the pithiest definition, by Jean-Paul Sartre, the French existentialist, who said: "Hell is other people."

Dante Alighieri, the medi-

eval Italian poet, gave the traditional view in his poem The Divine Comedy: There sighs, lamentations and loud wailings resounded through the starless air, so that at first it made me weep; strange tongues, horrible language; words of pain, tones of anger, voices loud and hoarse and with these the sound of hands, made a turnult which is whirling through that air forever dark, and sand eddies

in a whirlwind."



Academic's new revelations dismiss 666 as a wrong number

lation, inspiration for images of the final judgment and for horror films such as The Omen, is not about the end of the world at all, according to research published

It is an historical account of the Christian movement in the first century, says Barbara Thiering, an Australian academic who has analysed mythic themes such as Armageddon, the Beast whose number is 666, and the Great Harlot clothed in purple and

nique, a way of uncovering different layers of meaning in the text. Dr Thiering says

the future but an accurate. detailed account of events in the early church up until ADH4

Dr Thiering, whose book Jesus the Man challenged traditional Christian beliefs in events such as the virgin birth, says that Jesus did not die on the cross but remained in deep seclusion for 40 years after the crucifixion, partly for political reasons and partbecause he was observing the celibate rule of his community of ascetics.

tinued to lead his party of Using the pesher technew Christians, directing their movements until they reached Rome, she says. In eagle were the four evange-

were seen as the heretics, the beast "rising out of the sea. having ten horns and seven neads, and on its horns ten diadems" was the anti-Pope,

> Jezebel was mistress of Magus, the character who in western tradition became Dr Faust who sold his soul to the devil, and could be accused literally of hariotry, she says. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse were priests who visited villages, riding on

Simon Magus, she says.

horses because of their high status, and bearing banners in an appropriate colour for the season, she argues. The lion, calf, man and

Although she is unusual in using a skilled method of

biblical analysis to draw out her conclusions. Dr Thiering is likely to be one of many who offer new interpretations to Revelation as the millennium approaches. Her research was dis-

missed by the Rev Jonathan Jennings, spokesman for the Church of England, who said: "This sounds distinctly far-fetched.

"This certainly does not fit with the Church's understanding of the Book of Revelation, which believes it to be the mystical vision of St John the Divine."

British cinemas celebrate birthday with best weekend

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

BRITISH cinemas are celebrating the highest grossing weekend in box-office history They took more than £7.24 million last Friday. Saturday and Sunday, an exhilarating start to the year in which British cinema celebrates its

t beat the £6.65 million taken in July 1993 on the weekend that Jurassic Park opened nationwide. However, the latest success has come from a combination of films catering for a variety of tastes. rather than one runaway success. The highly acclaimed thriller Seven, with Brad Pitt, and Something to Talk About, starring Julia Roberts, were the main attractions.

Dave Thurston, director of operations for Entertainment Data International (EDI), said there was such a crosssection of films that "everyone went to the cinema": the choice also included the latest James Bond, Goldeneye: Jim Carrey's Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls: and Babe, which uses special effects to depict a

talking pig that believes it is a

sheepdog.
John Wilkinson, chief executive of the Cinema Exhibitors' Association, which represents 90 per cent of cinema screens, said: "Most people are usually a bit broke after Christmas and with the rollover of the lottery, people were spending more than usual on that. So it is rather fantastic that in the weekend when all these calls upon the purse were happening, we hit the highest figure Nigel Green, joint manag-

ing director of Entertainment Film Distributors, which distributed Seven, said that the film had taken nearly £2.7 million: "It is one of the biggest openings in Britain the biggest ever for an independently released film, as opposed to a Hollywood stu-dio. Films are acquired at script-stage, and we knew we had a good script. When we saw the film, we knew it would do well. It's part of this renewed interest in cinema. We're very pleased about the

result." British cinema-going figures compare well in percentage terms with those in America, Mr. Thurston said. "Of course, they've got a lot more people than we have. They also never got out of the cinema habit. We had a slump in the 1970s, despite big hit films. People have been saying cinema's been dying since 1948. I'm not convinced."

The industry has been further bolstered by the growth since 1985 of multiplex cinemas: many of them are out of town, which has encouraged higher attendances in the provinces. Britain boasts 70 multiplex cinemas, with about 650 screens and more than 130,000 seats. Warners is opening two multiplexes, in Watford and Croydon, on January 17. All the major companies are looking for sites on which to build more. Mr Wilkinson said that cinema is enjoying such a boom that about 100 screens are expected to be built this

year, compared with about 55 last year.

divides academics

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG Scots academic claims to have found 40 new poems by Robert Burns. News of the discovery, which coincides with a three-day conference on Scotland's national poet at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, comes in the bicentenary year of Burns's

The poems, without their author's name, were spotted by Patrick Hogg, 35, a writer working on a book entitled The Patriot Bard, in two newspapers of the 1790s. His claims have divided the Scottish academic community.

The Edinburgh Gazateer and the London paper the Morning Chronicle were both radical newspapers to which Burns was known to have contributed and with whose

editors he corresponded. Mr Hogg's theory is that as an exciseman Burns would have to have been very careful about what he wrote. The poems, many of which are believed to be political in tone. are also more anglicised than much of Burns's work. Mr Hogg said they "just seemed to jump out of the page" at him. Having read the collected works of Burns many times, the poems seemed to him to be a natural fit. One was entitled Aritus which Mr Hogg translated as "from the ploughman", Burns's occupation in

his early years. Dr Kenneth Simpson, director of the Centre of Scottish Cultural Studies at Strathclyde University and the organiser of the Burns conference that starts today, said authorship would be extremely difficult to prove.

Dr James Mackay, a Burns biographer, has seen a few of the poems and believes they are not by Burns. "There is a style to his work that is difficult to define, but if you have been studying it for a lifetime, you can spot a Burns poem a mile away. These are definite-

ly inferior in every respect." The poems will form part of a BBC Omnibus documentary, Ploughboy of the Western World, to be broadcast on January 22.

Burns discovery | Woman golfer 'froze' after felling man with punch

A WOMAN golfer described yesterday how she "froze" after knocking a businessman from his har stool with a right hook when he allegedly caressed her thigh.

Philomena Vaughan, 42, who struck fellow club member John Price in a crowded bar during an awards evening, told an industrial tribu-nal: "He fell off the stool and I just froze. I just went numb. It wasn't a violent blow. I think he more or less fell off because he lost his balance." Mrs Vaughan, who was

three times club champion at Dewstow Golf Club, Gwent, is claiming she was later sacked unfairly from her job as the golf shop manageress. The tribunal in Cardiff was told the 5ft bin mother of four was nicknamed "Muhammad Ali" and "Rocky" after the incident. Mrs Vaughan, who said she

had drunk a single gin and lemonade, walked past Mr Price, 49, and said she felf his hand go under her waistcoat to her thigh. She told the tribunal: "I said Take your



Vaughan: said Mr Price caressed her thigh at bar

hand away from me' and pushed his hand. When he moved his hand towards me I said 'I have told you. take your hand away from me'."

Mrs Vaughan claimed Mr Price was smiling and laughing. As she walked away, he made a remark and she asked what he had said. She added: "He cupped his hand and flicked it across my face. touching the tip of my nose. As

he did that I put my left hand up and then hit him with my right hand on the side of his

Mrs Vaughan, of Rogiet. near Newport, said she went to find her husband Peter, a company sales manager, who was also attending the event as a prize winner. Mrs Vaughan, who said she was "shaking like hell", told her husband: "John Price touched me up and I have hit him. He's on the floor." After calming her down and asking the men's captain to look after her. Mr Vaughan approached Mr Price at the bar and told him to "sort himself out".

Mrs Vaughan, who stood up at the hearing to demonstrate the alleged caress, said she was suspended from playing golf two months later by Elwyn Harris, the club committee chairman, after she refused to sign a paper stating there had been no assault. She also rejected his request to apologise to Mr Price because he was a businessman and I was a woman.

The tribunal was adjourned

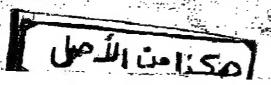
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'An accident waiting to happen'

RAF crews escape as 'dogfighting' Tornados collide

By Paul Wilkinson and Michael Evans, defence correspondent

FOUR crewmen ejected to safety yesterday when two RAF jet fighters collided while apparently engaged in mock combat at about 800ft. Eyewitnesses said the Tornado F3 air defence aircraft touched wings as one was completing a circular manoeuvre over open ground about nine miles from RAF Coningsby in Linguistics.

Coinshire.
One of the Tornados, from 56 Squadron and valued at about £17 million each, crashed 400 yards from the farm of Bill Drury at Rowston.
"One plane was doing a big circle and as it came out of the circle it started flying north," he said. "Another plane com-

ing from the north collided with it right above my house. They touched wings and then dropped out of the sky."

One of the pilots is a student flyer aithough "very experienced", according to Group Captain Mal Gleave, station commander at RAF Coningsby, a training base to convert airmen to Tornado F3s. He added: "All student aircrew who come here have been through all stages of training or they are returning to these airplanes after different drives."

The four RAF crewmen were taken to Lincoln County Hospital by two search and rescue helicopters. An RAF

King's Lynn

spokesman described their condition as "walking wounded". Group Captain Gleave said one of them might be transferred to hospital in Nottiogham as a progration

tingham as a precaution.

"I'm very relieved that they managed to eject safely. They weren't operating at low aktitude so they had a longer time available after they ejected."

A board of inquiry was launched immediately into the collision, which brings to eight the number of Tornado F3s lost in incidents since 1985. Group Captain Gleave declined to speculate on the reasons for the collision but confirmed that the two Tornados were flying in close formation.

The crash happened at 8.40am, nine miles west of Coningsby. Stewart Rhodes, another eyewitness, saw it as he was working on the roof of his shed in the nearby village of Ewerby.

"I saw the aircraft doglighting at about 700 to 800 feet," he said. "They were travelling at a fairly high speed. We are used to seeing Tornados doglighting at low level, but in this case they were fairly high. Suddenly I saw a flash, I thought it was a flare, then I realised they had collided.

"One of the planes started to spiral, he had lost his right wing. The plane hit the ground, it was a firehall and there was a huge crater."

The collision brought complaints from locals that it had been "an accident waiting to happen". Tracy Macham. 30, who lives a few hundred yards from where one of the planes crashed into a field, said: "We often see the planes flying really low and you can't help but think they might hit the village one day."

Group Captain Gleave said:
"The feelings of the local
community are something we
bear in mind at all times and
we understand people's fears,
but these kind of incidents are
very uncommon. The aircraft
were not training over residential areas."



The actor's children Alexandra and Matthew launching Push 2000 yesterday with their mother Gae Exton

Superman's son thanks Gemma

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN II-year-old disabled girl who wrote to Christopher Reeve, urging him not to give up hope after the riding accident that left him paralysed from the neck down, received his thanks vesterday.

his thanks yesterday.

The message from the screen Superman was passed on to Gemma Quin, who has been in a wheelchair since a road crash in 1992, by the actor's 16-year-old son Matthew.

Gemma, from Liverpool, wrote to the actor after his accident at an equestrian event in America last year. Her meeting with his son took place in London at the launch of Push 2000 to raise money for spinal injury research. The International Spinal Research Trust hopes to raise £500,000.

Gemma's father Michael

said: "Matthew came over to her and said his dad had asked him to personally thank Gemma for her letter. She has kept in touch with him and recently sent him a fax inviting him over to Liverpool, but we haven't heard anything yet."

Reeve, who is patron of the

event said in a message

are still stuck in these chairs will get up and walk.

This is a worldwide problem which afflicts several million people, but it is one which international science is quite confident it can solve."

Afterwards Matthew, who

delivered at the launch by his

son: "Since my accident. I

have talked to a lot of people

about the prospects for find-

ing a cure for paralysis. The

fact is we are on the threshold

of a new era in medical

science. Treatments for this

condition are right around

the corner. Thousands who

was joined by his sister Alexandra, 12, and their mother Gae Exton, spoke of the slow recovery of his father, who hopes to walk again within ten years. "He is going great now he is out of the hospital and at home. He is hoping to come over to England as soon as he can.

"But it all depends on how he is doing. His improvement is unreal. I can see the difference just between visits. He can come off the respirator one hour and ten minutes a day when he breathes by himself. He is fighting all the way." Alexan-



Gemma: she wrote to the paralysed Reeve

dra, who like her brother attends school in London. said: "To be up and walking is his ambition."

Push 2000 will take place between May 14 and July 10. Three paralysed people in wheelchairs will aim to complete the 1,200-mile trip from Land's End to John O'Groats, during which they will visit 12

spinal injury units.

Ian Walden, director of the event, said: "There is a real and growing enthusiasm which now exists across society to end the permanence of paralysis caused by spinal cord injury. Research funded by the trust has demonstrated that damaged spinal cord nerve fibres can be persuaded to regenerate and restore function and sensitivity.

"We are some way from developing treatments which are ready for clinical trials but we are making most encouraging progress."

encouraging progress."

Simon Barnes, promotion manager for Push 2000 and one of those taking part, broke his back on an assault course in 1984 and organised a similar event — The Great British Push — ten years ago. He said: "You may wonder

He said: "You may wonder why three guys with broken backs would want to take on this epic slog. But if you consider the slog that faces paralysed people every day of their lives it will help you realise that pushing 1,200 miles over 62 days in a wheelchair isn't really all that challenging."

Coventry air crash prompts new rules

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

TIGHTER controls on foreign aircraft are likely after an investigation into the crash of an Algerian died

The crew of the Boeing 731, which had been chartered to carry cattle, was tired after ten hours on duty and could not fully understand instructions in English. The aircraft was not equipped to receive automatic landing guidance, the crew did not carry out proper pre-landing checks and a permit to operate the charter had not been obtained from the Transport Department, the Air Accident Investigation

The three Algerian crew and two British animal handlers died after the plane hit an electricity pylon and crashed into woods, narrowly missing a housing estate, as it came into land at Coventry airport in December 1904.

into land at Coventry airport in December 1994.

The Transport Department said yesterday that it is to consult British airlines about tighter rules on the use of foreign jets for charter flights.

tighter rules on the use of foreign jets for charter flights. The Civil Aviation Authority is to make more frequent safety checks on foreign planes and to take part in internacional checks on countries with poor aviation

CORRECTIONS

Mr Harold A Whelehan

On December 19 1994 we reported on the crisis in the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. That article contained references to Mr Harold Whelehan, the former Irish Attorney-General, which suggested that he had deliberately disregarded his duties as Attorney-General over the extradition of a paedophile priest to Northern Ireland. We now accept that this suggestion was unwarranted and apologise to Mr Whelehan for any hurt and embarrassment caused. We have agreed to pay a sum to a charity of Mr Whelehan's choice.

☐ The vice-chairman of the BBC board of governors (report, yesterday) is Lord Cocks, and not Mr David Scholey.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

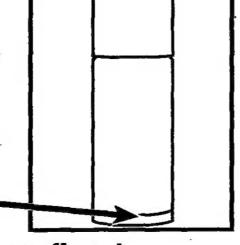
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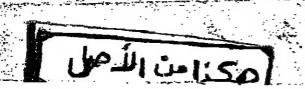




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'Two-nil, two-nil,' chant campaigners as they outwit massed ranks of security guards

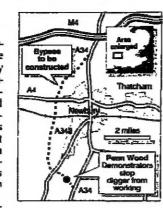
Newbury protesters win again as police halt work on bypass

WORK on the Newbury by-pass was abandoned for the second day running yesterday when protesters overcame security guards, throwing themselves under a digger and tearing equipment from contractors' hands. With two days of the £100 million project gone, little more than an hour's work has been completed, with about 50 small trees cleared from the southern tip of the bypass route.

Take a friend to the theatre for The protests mean taxpay-30p, reader offer ers are footing a bill of at least £20,000 a day for the security in Weekend operation alone. The 14-week contract for clearance work includes a figure of £500,000 to employ between 300 and 100 private guards. Policing is

rosting £5,000 a day. The aborted start was con-demned by David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, who said it was extraordinary that demonstrators had again won the day. The 150 guards had marched onto the site, at Great Penn Wood, Hampshire, flanking a mechanical digger. About a dozen protesters in a small camp were brushed aside and hedges and trees were flat-

tened as work appeared to



But the highly organised protesters, using mobile telephones and CB radios to summon reinforcements. surged forward to surround the digger and forced it to stop operating as the guards fought to drive them back, linking arms in a tight circle.

Two protesters managed to get beneath the machine's claws, while others huddled in holes where trees had been uprooted. During the struggles one protester and one security guard suffered leg injuries.

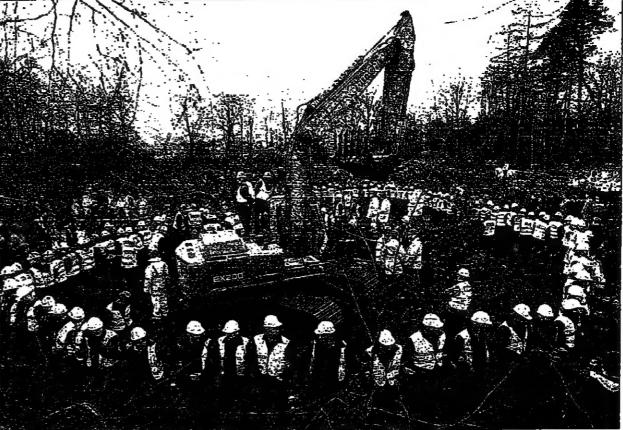
Inspector Frank Connor of Hampshire Constabulary said: "It is not a police job to

matter for the security guards. The main thing is that nobody gets injured." Mr Connor's announcement that work had finished for the day was greeted by cheers and chants of 'two-nil, two-nil'.

Susan Millington, a protest co-ordinator of Newbury Friends of the Earth, said: Whatever they throw at us we obviously we have the intellience and imagination to outwit them peacefully." Despite yesterday's minor injuries, the conflict was largely good-natured and limited to pushg and shoving

The Highways Agency said the contractor, which it will not name, could ask for more money if the size of protest was larger than anticipated. It is thought the guards are being paid about £50 a day, including food and accommodation. bringing the daily cost to at least £15,000 at present. Coach and mini-bus hire adds another £750 a day to transport the guards to work sites.

Earlier yesterday cam-aigners attacked the base of the bus company which takes guards from their living quar-14 miles outside Newbury, and forced it to



Backs to the wall: security guards formed a human chain in a vain attempt to keep protesters from a digger

Ragtag army devises its tactics in the pub

WITH their unkempt looks the growing band of protesters might appear to be a ragtag army, but they have planned their campaign carefully for six months. Tactics are fixed at regular strategy meetings held round camp fires, in the pubs of Newbury or in the cramped town centre office of Friends of the Earth.

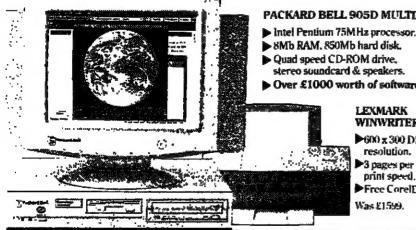
At each one different "cells" with specialist knowledge pass on their exper-tise; some are "tree defenders", while

cessful tripod protest on Monday, are skilled in tried and tested tactics in the battle known as "reclaiming the streets". Simon Festing, of Friends of the Earth.

said: "We have many different cells which work on our own style of tactic. At the moment our main strategy is to take the fight to them as much as possible, as you saw at the coach firm this morning. "At the heart of the philosophy is 'the simpler the better'. A lot of it goes back to Gandhi and the whole idea of peaceful protest. One of the keys is outsmarting them and coming up with new ideas."

Two of the key members of the strateg group are thought to be a man called Jai and Rebecca Lush. She played down her role: "Any meetings we have are very informal and held on stairs or in the pub. We just bash out ideas. It's imagination

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die yet another death By NIGEL HAWKES

Dinosaurs

SCIENCE EDITOR

COLLAPSING stars have joined the list of cancer scares, and the dinosaurs are claimed to have been among the first

A new theory from an American astrophysicist says that a dying star in the Milky Way would send out millions of particles that could cause tissue damage to living things on Earth.

University of South Carolina, has calculated that a star within 20 light years of Earth collapses about every 100 million years. The dinosaurs died

out 65 million years ago. A star's collapse — caused when it runs out of material to burn - generates a huge number of invisible, weightless particles called neutrinos. which spread outwards.

Dr Collar's theory, to be propounded in the journal Physical Review Letters, joins about 200 explanations of why the dinosaurs died. The most probable remains the impact of a huge asteroid or comet, altering the climate.

Neutrinos are chargeless, massless particles which usually pass straight through everything they meet without harm. But Dr Collar argues that a blizzard of neutrinos at a certain intensity would affect the nuclei of tissue atoms. causing fatal cancers.

Ministers may lose traditional accessory

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERIAL red boxes could become a thing of the fice's vision of a paper-free Whitehall, unveiled yesterday.

The Government's "office of the future" was on display at an emerging-technology exhibition in Westminster. The aim is to make the resources of Whitehall available to ministers while they are travelling.

Using a fictional scenario of an oil slick off the English coast, the Cabinet Office demonstrated how a minister on the scene could hold conferences with and receive diagrams from his private secretary in Whitehall, and conduct three-way press interviews. Civil servants and ministers would access the new system via voice recognition and finger-print identification.

Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, said: "The exotic is becoming commonplace and the fanciful is becoming reality." Not long ago the systems which had been demonstrated "belonged solely in the world of Star Trek". he said. Now every minister could expect to be using such

technology by 2000.

A Central Information Technology Unit has been set up, reporting to Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Gallery celebrates surreal bequest

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

EDINBURGH will have one of the world's best collections of Dadaist and Surrealist works thanks to a bequest to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

Masters such as Dali, Delvaux, Duchamp, Man Ray, Magritte and Miro are esented in the collection left by Gabrielle Keiller, champion golfer, benefactor and collector of modern art, who died last December aged 87. Manuscripts of the period have also been bequeathed to the gallery. Mrs Keiller also bought Surrealist-influenced works by Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud.

Among some 136 paintings. sculptures, prints and drawings are Bacon's early Figure Study I. 1945-16. featuring a tweed overcoat, hat and dying flowers: Magritte's Magic Mirror, his 1929 painting that plays with words; and Delvaux's enigmatic Street of the Tram, 1938-39, a dreamlike image of two nudes and a tram car in an industrial landscape.

The manuscripts and artists' books include correspondence, largely unpublished, between Dali and Andre Breton, from 1930 to 1939. They show sharp differences of opinion over Surrealism and Breton's efforts to make Dali conform to Surrealist orthodoxy, according to Richard Calvocoressi, keeper of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

Other letters, dating from 1933-34. reveal Breton's anxiety over Dali's fascination with Hitler and his ambivalent attitude to Lenin. "In one of February 3, 1934. Breton informs Dalí that the decision has been taken at a general assembly of Surrealists to exclude him from the group because he has been found guilty of 'counter-revolutionary acts tending to the glorification of Hitlerian Fascism'. The decision was revoked later and friendly relations resumed because Dali defended himself so well." Mr Calvocoressi said that

the Kieller bequest would complement the rich collection of Dada and Surrealist work already at the Scottish gallery - offering the most comprehensive collection of its kind in Britain and one of the finest in the world. "This is unquestionably the most exciting gift since the gallery opened in 1960," he added.

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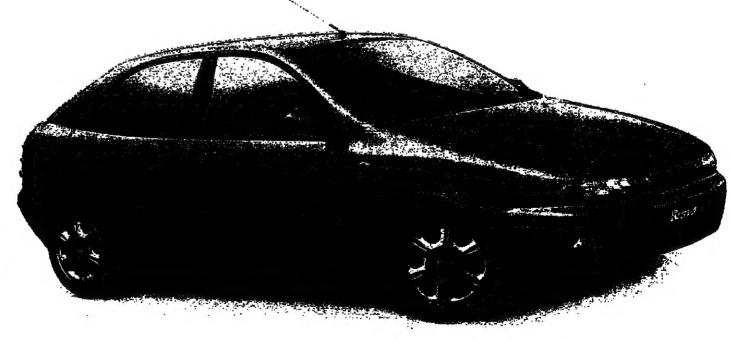


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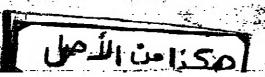




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No socks, aftershave or bubble bath for us. Just Car of the Year - again. Which means we've now won this award two years running. This year with the new Fiat Bravo 3-door hatchback and Brava 5-door fastback, and last year with the Punto. No other car manufacturer has ever done this before, let alone win it as many times as we have (this makes it our 7th time). For more information on the Car of the Year call 0800 71 7000. Happy, happy New Year.



Footballer

fined for

airport

bag theft

The Arsenal footballer David Hillier was fined 1750 yester-

day after he admitted stealing

a bag at Gatwick. The mid-

was an act of stupidity which had destroyed Hillier's soccer

Magistrates at Crawley,

West Sussex, were told that

Hillier, 26, stole the bag with

his friends Wayne Burnett, 24.

a Bolton Wanderers player, and Adam Old, 3!, a computer

consultant. The three men,

from London, were each fined £750 and ordered to pay £970

compensation to the bag's owner, a Danish businessman.

More than 100 sacked Liver-

pool dockers picketed the port

of Sheerness, where workers

were recruited to replace them. Mersey Docks and Har-bour Board, which also runs

the Kent port, dismissed 500 dockers in September after

they refused to cross picket lines of a separate dispute.

Smuggler escapes

A Belgian drug smuggler was on the run yesterday from Downview Prison in Ban-

stead, Surrey. Jaques Maczele,

51, serving 42 years, was reported missing on Tuesday night. Police believe he may

have been driven away in a

Vanyhali Cavalier seen earlier

Class had to strip

The headmaster of a school

where children had to strip as

a teacher searched for a stolen

pen has apologised to parents.

Twenty 12 and 13-year-olds

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in the prison car park.

Port picketed

Senior officers sceptical as ministry orders retreat from the high street

Services forced to seek recruits in Jobcentres

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 130 high-street recruiting offices are to close after the Ministry of Defence decided to advertise Armed Forces vacancies in 1,100 Jobcentres. The new route into the Royal Navy, Army or RAF, initially proposed to save money, is now seen as a way of

The Services cut manpower by 30 per cent at the end of the Cold War, and potential recruits still appear to believe recruiting has stopped. How-ever, many sections, especially the infantry and the Parachute

ous shortages. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Sec-retary, who with Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, announced the new move, said yesterday that the employment service would be able to "reach those who may not have considered the job opportunities that the forces can offer". She added: "In particular people may not be aware of the skilled jobs available such as mechanics. drivers, cartographers, cooks and many more.

Some senior military figures, however, are sceptical about the Jobcentre scheme meeting recruitment needs and are seeking to save some of the military recruitment offices earmarked for closure.

The present 215 traditional service offices are to be re-



First World War in such institutions as soldiers' rest rooms, but it was not until 1961, after National Service came to an end, that the first recruiting "shops" began to

The earliest form of recruiting, for the Royal Navy, had to be carried out by press gangs who "persuaded" men to join a ship's crew. Pressing people into service started as early as the 13th century but ceased, albeit unofficially, when improved pay and conditions in the early 1800s encouraged voluntary recruits.

The navy was always short of volunteers and the press gangs, composed of tough petty officers and seamen, scoured seaports for likely recruits. Real sailors hid or fled and, rather than return empty-handed, the gangs sometimes seized people who knew nothing about the sea. Sheriffs and mayors often supplied the press gangs with people by clearing out the prisons. However, after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, in 1815, such forms of compulsory enlistment were no longer required.

phase of recruiting, interview-ing young men and women sent by the Jobcentres.

The closure of 133 recruiting offices would not lead to more redundancies, the MoD said.

closures, but it is expected to be several million pounds. He said he was hopeful that if the Northern Ireland peace initiative continued success-

money would be saved by the

Services and encourage

Recruiting offices used to be a major target for the IRA and egular surveillance was carried out by police anti-terrorist at an Army recruiting office in Derby and in 1992 a soldier vho worked at the centre was hot in the head.

The decision lobcentries to advertise vacancies, which currently stand at 17,500, followed a pilot scheme at 99 Joboentres in six loca-tions, including Edinburgh. Gloucester. Norwich and Swansea. In six months there were 32! enlistments and 67 applications are still being ocessed.

The Army will be undermanned by around 2,000 soidiers this year, mainly in the infantry, Royal Artillery and Royal Armoured Corps. Some 400 Gurkhas due to be made redundant have been reprieved to help to meet the dramatic shortfall in recruits. and a II.400 cash bonus is now offered to soldiers to persuade them to stay on for three years.

Commanding battalions are to be given an extra £1.5 million to be used specifically for recruiting in eir local areas

Commodore Ian Somervaille, director of naval recruiting, said the Royal Navy ranted to take on just over financial year, including 1,200 for the Royal Marines.



Pilot-scheme recruits James Stallabrass, left, Kerry Duckenfield and Scott Robertson

thought a year ago that we would be sending 13,000 troops to Bosnia?"

He dismissed as fatuous nonsense" claims by Labour that the shortfall implied a failure in the recruiting sys-tem. He said the Services, like everyone else, were operating

Jobcentres' help it would now be possible to reach a broader nge of people. He said he hoped more from the ethnic communities would be attracted to a career in the forces.

Mr Soames said that the cuts in manpower had largely affected older personnel and

walk into any of the 1,100 lobcentres and see the many skilled jobs that are available in the three Services.

"I hope that young people forces will be attracted by the

Bad news for Daleks as the doctor returns

By A STAFF REPORTER

DOCTOR WHO is to be ogy, and now we've got all the small screen with Paul McGann as the latest incarnation of the Time Lord. The 36-year-old star of The Monocled Mutineer saw off Sting, Simon Callow and Alan Rickman to become the eighth incumbent of the role since 1963.

He will star in a two-hour film to be made for television. produced jointly by BBC Worldwide and Universal Television in America. If the film proves popular there are plans for six more.

Doctor Who was last seen on television in 1989, but ratings slumped to four million viewers and the series was axed. The new production has a £5 million budget and will be broadcast in the United States and Britain

later this year. McGann said yesterday: "I loved Doctor Who as a kid — William Hartnell used to terrify me. My favourite was the Yeti, but the Daleks never.

run upstairs."

One fan of the series welcomed the news. Alexan-Dr Who shop in East Ham. east London, said: "I am absolutely delighted. Paul McGann has just the right Doctor Who needs. There is no way it will seem outdated. All it needs is good writers, good actors and new technol-

fails to pay

es to settle bills promptly.

that. I can't wait."

Britain's last remaining police box — the model for



Doctor Who was first screened on November 23, 1963, with William Hartnell in the title role. He was followed by Patrick Troughton (1966-1970). Jon Pertwee [1970-1974]. Tom Baker (1974-1982), Peter Davison (1982-1984), Colin Baker (1984-1987) and Sylvester McCoy

Doctor Who's time-travelling Tardis — is to be restored. It was one of scores found in the capital until 1969, when they were scrapped by the Metro-politan Police. The surviving example is at Hendon Police Training College.



at the Cardinal Wiseman Roman Catholic School in Potter's Green, Coventry. Turned in

A car that sped away from a policeman in Torquay was chased by a patrol car to Newton Abbot — where it took a wrong turn into a police station car park. Two youths charged with aggravated vehi-cle-taking and burglary.

CPS man jailed

Andrew Woodfine, 26, a legal administrator for the Crown Prosecution Service in Durham, was jailed for 12 months by Durham Crown Court for supplying Eestasy and possessing amphetamines. He sold two Ecstasy tablets to a plainclothes detective at a rave.

Boat fire deaths

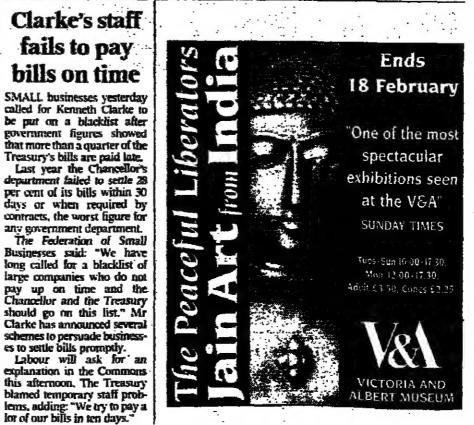
A mother and her two children who died as fire swept through their riverboat on the Oxford Canal at Wolvercote, Oxfordshire, on Tuesday had just been told they were to move to a council house. Sarah Lowe, 30. Ben. 6. and Louise, 3, were asleep when the fire started.

War pensions

Staff are being recruited to ensure that all war widows entitled to a pension receive it by April. The 1995 Pension Act restores the £1-13-a-week pension to war widows whose subsequent marriage has end-ed. However, the payment may reduce benefits received.

East eats West

Civic leaders from Stupini, near Moscow, met their British counterparts in Slough, Berkshire, home of Mars bars in the UK, to celebrate the opening of the confectioner's first factory in Russia. The two parties exchanged somewhat predictable gifts: Mars bars.



Mr Soames insisted that the duced to 82 - 39 tri-service Staff who work at the centres fully, servicemen and women would be able to walk around manpower cuts in the Services careers offices and 43 others. are posted on a temporary most of which will be for Army in public in their uniforms, a had not gone too far but basis and will be redeployed to recruiting. These offices will be used mainly for the second practice banned for the past 25 stressed the need to carry on other jobs. Mr Soames was unable to say how much Magnet Half Price MUST END THIS SATURDAY Right now our beautiful kitchen Whirlpool cabinets are deliciously tempting · Unbeatable quality, guaranteed for a lifetime • Competitive finance available

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Dorrell denies £1bn efficiency drive is rationing

Hospitals told to reduce 'unnecessary' Caesareans

A DRIVE to reduce unnecessary Caesarean sections was launched by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yester-day as part of a campaign to save El billion being wasted on ineffective NHS treatments.

Almost 100,000 women undergo Caesareans each year and the rate has more than doubled in the past 20 years. In some hospitals, more than 20 per cent of women have the operation, compared with fewer than 10 per cent in others. Mr Dorrell said the rates in some hospitals were "surpris-ingly high" and should be

Launching the document Promoting Clinical Effective-ness, Mr Dorrell said it was vital for doctors and health authorities to keep pace with the rapidly changing clinical scene. More than 30,000 medical journals are published around the world and it is impossible for most doctors to vances. Under the initiative,

they are to be provided with easily accessible information on effective treatments and may be required to justify clinical judgments that differ from the norm. Authorities will be required to show that they are switching funds from ineffective treatments to those

of proven value.

Mr Dorrell cited hospitals with high Caesarean rates as an example that doctors and managers should be examining. "It doesn't mean the clinicians are wrong but it does mean that they have to explain why they are out of

Latest figures on Caes-areans, collected by the National Childbirth Trust, show a national rate of 15.3 per cent of births in 1993-94, the highest ever. Rates varied between hospitals from under 10 per cent at Bedford and Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire; to more than 20 per cent at Buchanan Hospital, St Leonards-on-Sea. East Sussex;

Leighton Hospital, Crewe. Cheshire, and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Rates were also above 20 per cent at Bradford Royal Infirmary, Hammersmith, and Queen Charlotte's and Chel-sea hospitals, London, Liverpool Maternity Hospital and St David's Hospital, Bangor. Gwynedd. Large hospitals that deal with more complex cases would expect to have higher Caesarean rates.

Many hospitals routinely perform Caesareans on women who have previously had one, although there is no evidence that it improves the outcome. Women complain that they are being subjected to an unnecessary operation with increased risks at a critical point in their lives.

The National Childbirth Harriet Harman, the Shad-Trust says that increased medical intervention in labour, such as foetal monitoring, and fear of litigation is driving the trend to more Caesareans. Mary Newburn, head of poli-

cy research, said: "Fear of litigation should not be driving maternity care. Caesarean birth is a major operation from which it takes six weeks to recover, at a very important time for the whole family getting to know and care for a new baby.

Promoting Clinical Effec-tiveness, which is backed by the Royal Medical Colleges. says that the treatment provided by doctors "is still insufficiently responsive to the changing evidence of best practice. Mr Dorrell denied that the aim was to ration the best quality of care at the best value. "We are using science to address questions of value, not to reduce costs," he

ow Health Secretary, dis-missed Mr Dorrell's campaign for clinical effectiveness as a "smokescreen for rationing". "It is nothing but a drive



Debbie Chippington Derrick and her son Maxwell, the only one of her four children not born by Caesarean

'Evidence on natural births being ignored'

AFTER her third Caesarean section, Debbie Chippington Derrick decided the only way to ensure that her fourth pregnancy would end in a natural birth was to pay for it. She spent £2,500 hiring an independent midwife and had her

"It was a straightforward eight-hour labour. I had no pain relief, no stitches, no intervention of any kind. Had I been under the NHS I would have been automatically booked for a Caesarean.

son, Maxwell, at home.

Mrs Chippington Derrick, 36, of Camberley, Surrey, said the Guide to Effective Care in Pregnancy and Child-birth, produced by the UK Cochrane Centre in Oxford, showed the chances of a natural birth did not depend on the reasons for the first Caesarean.

She said her first Caesarean was carried out after a series of interventions. such as pain relief which left her drowsy

As soon as you have had two, the attitude of the obstetricians changes." and a foetal heart monitor, had left her unable to cope. Her second Caesarean, in a different hospital, was performed when she was ten days overdue after attempts to induce her over eight days had failed. In her first pregnancy she had been three weeks late.

That is what women encounter all the time. If you happen to be in a different hospital, a different policy will be followed. Evidence on effectiveness is being ignored."



Dr Stevenson outside his 200-year-old thatched home

Hard-up Church storms another bishop's castle

BY RUSSELL JENKINS AND VEEMA SHAH

THE Bishop of Worcester is replaced in ten years and we expected to be the next senior Anglican cleric to face "eviction" from his historic home. the Church Commissioners confirmed yesterday. Hartlebury Castle, where the Right Rev Philip Goodrich lives,

could fetch £750,000. The new Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr Kenneth Stevenson, has already been asked to leave his 200-year-old thatched residence, Bishopswood, in Fareham, in two years' time and to move his family into a £300,000 sixbedroom Victorian villa. There is a question mark over the future of 14 other bishops homes under a Church of

England seven-year review. Dr Stevenson's chaplain. Canon Howard Baker, said plan: "He was unhappy inirially, but the decision here was to move into not only a smaller house but one which will suit the needs of a bishop

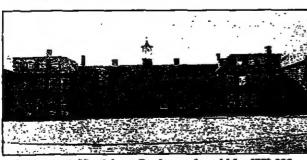
in the 21st century." Dr Stevenson, who was enthroned shortly before Christmas, said: "We are looking forward to moving into a better house. The thatched roof is the largest in the south of England and needs to be

cannot get a grant for that." Behind the impressive façades of episcopal castles, palaces and residences, their occupants are struggling to pay heating bills. Mary Loudon, who interviewed clergy for her book Revelations, said: "Never go and stay with a bishop. It's freezing."

Bishops are paid £24,590 a year, plus a car and an allowance to pay a small staff for their office and house. Under church guidelines, their residences should have a dining room for ten to 12 guests, a commensurate kitchen, drawing room, study, office, chapel, sitting room and

Bishops' homes still under review include those at Blackburn, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Lichfield, Lincoln, Liverpool, Norwich, Ripon, the Isle of Man, Southwell and Truro.

Miss Loudon believes the Church should sell all clergy homes, pay the occupants enough to buy their own and hire offices and meeting halls. This would help to solve financial difficulties and make clergy face the housing problems their parishioners have,



Medieval marvels vie with Gothic elegance

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England owns three castles and five palaces among its 44 bishops' homes, in addition to Lambeth Palace, home of the Archbishop of

A claim to be the most elegant could be made by Auckland Castle, home of the new Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, which has survived the church's review.

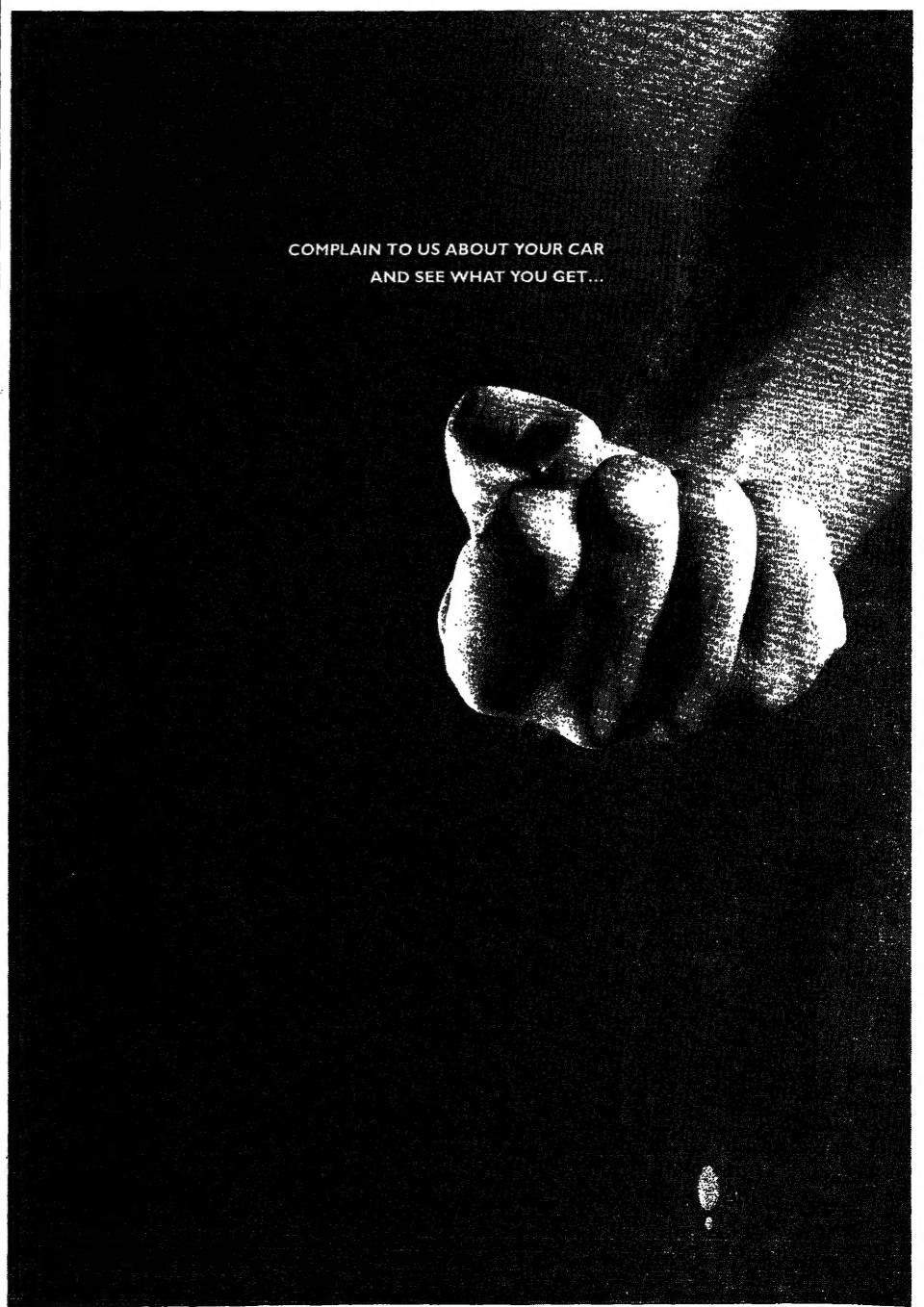
Its Gothic gateway is topped by a turreted clock and weather vane. The house has state rooms with high ceilings, some covered in coats of arms,

and eight bedrooms. The grandest may be Peterborough Palace, built partly in the 12th century.

the 11th century on a far bigger scale. It has seven bedrooms. The hall can seat 100 for lunch and the sitting room takes 50.

The future Bishop of Peterborough - the appointment is vacant - will live in part of the palace but the commissioners are looking at ways to make the building pay its way.

Bishopsthorpe, home of the Archibishop of York, stands in 19 acres of gardens. Originally a manor house, it was later enlarged and rebuilt. Wolvesey Palace stands on the site ter have had their homes since





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Local Tories blame party's high command for failing to expose black businessman's lies

Candidate's imaginative CV was never checked

HUGH NEIL: CURRICULUM VITAE

By Andrew Pierce and Kate Alderson

CONSERVATIVE Central Office was blamed last night for the debacle over a black parliamentary candidate who will be deselected next week for lying about his past to local party officials.

Hugh Neil, 32, will be dropped as candidate for the marginal seat of Hyndburn in Lancashire because of irregularities in the curriculum vitae that he submitted to the selection committee. But a straightforward check on his background would have shown that only four years before he had been deselected as candidate for Wallsend after the collapse of his estate agency

Closer scrutiny of Mr Neil's curriculum vitae has revealed a host of bogus claims about his academic political and busines career. The false claims include his chairmanship of "Britain's 19th largest building society", the Kenton and Middlesex, which has never traded, and a doctorate in business administration at Manchester business school. Mr Neil, a bachelor, also falsely claimed to have been an adviser to the late Lord Joseph, Margaret Thatcher's

The party high command failed to act because Mr Neil was one of only a handful of black candidates. A Central Office official said: "Alarm bells should have rung after

he was deselected. He survived the cull of the candidates list after the election because he was black. We were sensitive because of the row over John Taylor, the defeated black candidate in Cheltenham." Mr Taylor narrowly lost the Tory seat in 1992 after being described as a "nigger" by constituency members.

Despite the bitterness left by Mr Neil's abrupt departure from Wallsend, only months before the 1992 general elec-tion, Central Office failed to investigate him and his name remained on its approved list In series of telephone calls

Lord Joseph: Mr Neil

been one of the Cabinet

Although he claimed mem-bership of the Bow Group, the

Mr Neil said last night: You are part of a bourgeoise plot. I am the victim of

yesterday. The Times established that Mr Neil had financed his estate agency. Witton Flint, with a £17,000 business development loan from Brent Council. It was awarded in 1986, when the Tories were in power. They had gained control of the council in 1983 when Mr Neil's mother, Ambrozine, a Labour councillor, defected to the Tories. He was dropped as a Tory candidate in a council by-election in 1988 when he defaulted on his loan. In 1990 Brent Council, again under Tory control, wrote off the loan when the estate gency went into liquidation. It was also established that,

contrary to his CV, Mr Neil had never had any connection with Harvard University. Claims that he had worked for the Polish government were discounted by the Polish embassy in London.

Foreign Affairs Forum, and the Centre for Policy Studies, all three denied that he had ever been a member. The Chartered Institute of Marketsuspended his membership because of unpaid fees. He ceased to be a member of the Institute of Directors in June 1991 because of his failure to pay amounts owing

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA): Menche helor of Arts: BA (Horis) Social Sch University of Westminster
The Chartered Institute of Marketing (DipM MCIM) Nard chairman for Brent East Conservative

The CV that helped to persuade Hyndburn Tories to select Hugh Neil as their parliamentary candidate

institutionalised racism in the media and Tory party." A local party official said last night: "He should have been permanently moved by Central Office years ago. Attempts to discover why Mr Neil was allowed to move from constituency to constituency have met with silence."

In the predominantly white

working-class constituency,

which includes Accrington, he had impressed party members with his academic air and intelligent conversation about world affairs. Stan Horne, deputy chairman of Hyndburn Tories, said: "I thought he was an outstanding candidate. I told the local paper his political capability was unbounded. He was an impressive speaker. Not full of waffle.

In the words of a famous song, he was young, gifted and black."

However, party officials began to be troubled by doubts about him. He could never be contacted at his office Manchester Business School. It transpired that he did not have one. At the party conference in Blackpool last year, they were advised by

officials from other local parties to drop him. In November Mr Home discovered that Mr Neil's membership of the party had lapsed in 1990 when he left the City of London and Westminster South Conservatives. He did not rejoin until the month of his selection for Hyndburn. Mr Neil had developed a

reputation as a Walter Mitty

self that everything he said was true. He told colleagues at Hyndburn that he had had a BMW and a Toyota sports car. They only ever saw him driving a battered Montego. In December a motion of no confidence in him was passed by 53 votes to 16 and he was urged to resign.

Mr Horne said last night: "He was black when we selected him. The charges of racism against our association are absolute rubbish. His leselection comes down to his business dealings. I am sad this whole episode has occurred. It is not enough to be seen to be above reproach as a candidate. You have to be

Mr Neil is from a family of six children. His parents, both now dead, moved to London from the West Indies 35 years ago. In a interview with the Accrington Observer he described General Colin Powell and Baroness Thatcher as his heroes. He said the best advice he had received was from Lady Thatcher: "Always be true to your ability and destiny." Lady Thatcher's of-fice said they had never heard

of Mr Neil. He claimed to have been a schoolfriend of the sprinter Linford Christie and said that he expected to be MP for Hyndburn. Asked what his epitaph would be, he replied:











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Thatcher's role as prophet is true to tradition

Prime Minister to cause waves for a successor. Exactly 100 years ago this September, Gladstone descended on Liverpool like a prophet from the hills, according to his latest biographer. Roy Jenkins, and delivered a powerful blast of protest over Turkish atrocities in Armenia. It caused quite a stir, not least because of the parallels with his campaign over the slaughter of Christians in Bulgaria 20 years earlier. But in autumn 1896 the GOM was nearly 87 and it was his last hurrah. Still, it was enough to precipitate the resignation of Rosebery as Liberal leader 12 days later. He complained that the Gladstone speech was "the final straw on his back". John Major is much more resolute than the tiresome and resigna-

tion-prone Rosebery, who was

argaret Thatcher is

a better writer than a politician. Baroness Thatcher is not alone among former party leaders in still being able to command headlines. Former Prime Ministers have behaved in very different ways. Several -- Salisbury. Campbell-Bannerman, Bonar Law, Macdon-aid and Neville Chamberlain - have died soon afterwards, in some cases having resigned because of fatal illness. Eden was in mixed health for the 20 years he survived, but he had anyway been largely discredit-ed by the Suez crisis. Bal-dwin's high reputation on retirement was soon undermined by the collapse of appeasement and he had a lonely last few years. Churchill and Wilson lived for 10 and 19 years respectively after leaving Downing Street but for most of the time were senile, in Wilson's sad case

prematurely so.
Only a few of the long-time survivors avoided controversy altogether. Attlee lived over a decade after giving up the Labour leadership and, as might be expected for such a stickler to the proprieties, did not interfere with his successors. Macmillan contented himself with his memoirs for more than a decade before enjoying the limelight in his last few ennobled years as a nostalgic critic of Thatcher-

RIDDELL ONECLINCS

ism. Balfour and Home were unusual in both later returning to high office and were props rather than threats to their successors.

Those who have lost office against their will have caused the most trouble. There have usually been regrets and retemperamental complainer but was too ineffective to pose any real problems during his remaining three decades. As-quith and Lloyd George battled over the declining and divided Liberal Party for several years, and the latter remained both an actual and a potential threat to those in power for most of the 1920s and 1930s. Sir Edward Heath was never reconciled to the Thatcher succession. Lady Thatcher has tried to

behave with more restraint but she is too open and candid to disguise her disappointment with her successor. Mr Major has had to endure much from her since 1990, in memoirs, interviews and speeches (however supportive in intention, as tonight's speech will be presented), as well as rumours of critical private remarks. But he has now steeled himself to her interventions, however irritat-ed he may still be by the stir she can still occasionally cause in the media and among Tory supporters in the country though most MPs now pay little attention to her views.

hat Lady Thatcher had in common with Gladstone was the ability to make the weather, in Churchill's vivid phrase about Joseph Chamberlain. So in retirement, both could still draw big audiences and press attention. But Lady Thatcher is now more of a symbol than a force. She will be applauded tonight for what she did rather than what she can do, for touching the hearts of her followers rather than as a potential leader of a crusade. Like Gladstone, she is now a prophet, one who descends from Concorde rather than the hills.

PETER RIDDELL

New role for MI5 backed

PLANS to the expand the role of MI5 to include supporting the police in the fight against organised crime won crossparty support in the Commons last night.

Opening the second reading debate of the Security Service Bill. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that the

Government should use every resource available to combat criminal gangs, drug traffickers and racketeers. Jack Straw, Shadow Home

Secretary, said Labour wel-comed the Bill in principle but had reservations about how accountable MI5 would be to Parliament in its new role.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: bar bench debates on the regeneration coalfield communities and the Gove

and Cover Charges) 8th.
TODAY in the Commons: questions of processing the processing of the processing of the Commons of the Prime Minister. Debails on Rating (Caravans and Boets) 8th, remaining stages. In the Lord obstace on the Family Law 8th, committee

Chechen rebel leader vows bloodshed will continue until Kremlin soldiers leave

Russian troops surround hostage-takers at border

RUSSIAN troops ringed a convoy of buses carrying Chechen gunmen and dozens of captives on the border with Chechenia yesterday on the zure, which has thrown the Government into crisis.

Earlier, the gunmen freed thousands of hostages they had held overnight in Kizlyar hospital in Dagestan. The incident appeared to be head-ing for a peaceful conclusion until the convoy's exit was halted by a bridge blown up by the Russian Army at the village of Pervomayskiy and a new round of negotiations began. The fighters threatened to start shooting hostages if they were not allowed across.

According to a correspondent outside the village, helicopter gunships dropped flares, but there appeared to be no sign of an attack to free the captives. An Interior Ministry colonel from Dagestan, Abubakar Mogamedov, said: "They have blockaded Pervomayskiy and have taken more hostages there." He did not ay how many had been

In overnight negotiations, officials from the Dagestan administration struck a deal with the fighters similar to the one that was forged during the almost identical hostage crisis in the town of Budennovsk seven months ago. More than 2,000 captives were freed in return for the gunmen's safe passage after at least 13 civil-ians and seven policemen died

I hancherst!

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The convoy of buses heads for the Chechen border

the Prime Minister who nego in 24 hours of violence. The Chechens, smiling, wearing Islamic headbands and trailtiated the end to the Budennovsk siege, said yestering green, white and red day that "banditry and all who Chechen flags from the bus windows, took about 160 hostake part in it will be puntages from Kizlyar, including volunteers from local govern-But the political damage for the Yeltsin adminstration is considerable. A prominent ment and the hospital, as well as 30 women and 15 children. Communist member of partia-One women in a headscarf ment. Viktor Ilyukhin, who is and spectacles was shown on chairman of the security com-

President Yeltsin, who has been humiliated by the second mass hostage-taking in seven months, told reporters that the decision to let the gunmen leave had been "tactically correct". He held more talks with his security ministers, whom he lambasted for incompetence. He said that he was now considering several options.

television sitting nervously next to a fighter with a rocket

launcher between his knees.

"If they release the hostages there will be one turn of events. If they don't release unfold," he said at an introductions ceremony for Yevgeni Primakov, the new Foreign Minister. Mr Yeltsin later left for Paris to attend François Mitterrand's memorial service.

The release of most of the hostages eased the pressure on the Kremlin, which may be able to mount a military operation against the hostagetakers and try to save some

Government to resign, Even if the drama ends successfully, the Government faces a security situation in which Chechen rebels have proved that they can strike at targets inside Russia at will. Any peaceful town is defenceless against 100 armed terror-ists," said Aleksandr Golts, a commentator for the military newspaper Krasnava Zvezda. A former aide to the rebel Chechen leader, General

Dzhokhar Dudayev, said that the Chechen forces had several *diversionary detachments" consisting of about 100 fighters, which were ready to carry out raids outside Chechenia. This is only the beginning." he said.

General Dudayev told re-porters in the Chechen hills that there could be "more large-scale incidents". He said that until Russia pulled its troops out of Chechenia. "the bloodshed will not end".

Ancient enemies, page 18



Patients tell of 24-hour terror

FROM PHILIPPA FLETCHER IN KIZLYAR

ried patients mouning in fear ing," she said. and pain out of Kizlyar's Other victims hospital yesterday after Chechen gunmen abandoned it. leaving the body of a murdered policeman untouched on an upper floor.

Men carrying patients in iron beds jostled with Russian police carrying out mines laid by the gunmen on the lower floors of the grey four-storey

Torn sheets fluttered from broken windows and spent cartridges were scattered around on the road outside the hospital. Hot-water pipes punctured in 24 hours of gunfire spat water and steam into the chilly air.

The Chechen fighters, who had threatened to kill their captives unless Russia withdrew troops from their neighbouring separatist region, left unexpectedly in a convoy of buses early yesterday, accompanied by more than 160 hostages. The wounded were

among those left behind.

Alla Pradikova, injured when Chechens forced their way into her flat, lay in the hospital entrance, her head peeping out from under an orange blanket. She said that she was at home when the rebels started banging on her door. "We asked them to let us get dressed, but they broke the

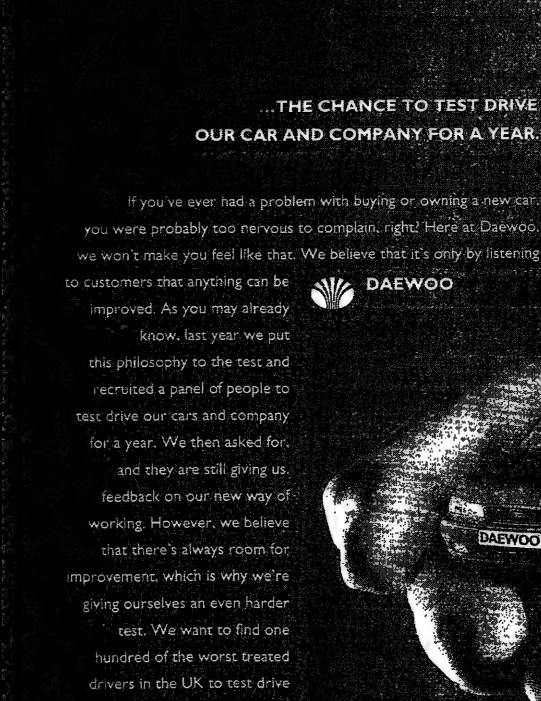
NURSES and volunteers car- door down and started shoot-

Other victims still lay in the hospital, where mattresses have been stuffed into broken windows to stop the draught. and blood-soaked rags lie on the floor.

"The hospital was full, there were at least 3,000 people. Then they went round town and collected more." Muhammad Maladzhiyev, duty doctor in the surgery area, said. "People in each department had been wounded in the hand or the foot. They killed a policeman and two old women did not survive the strain."

Shots rang out outside the hospital as the doctor spoke. but it was unclear where the shooting came from. Patients said Russian special forces had shot at the hospital with guns and shells. Dr Maladzhiyev's assistant said her son had had to go with the rebels. "I do not know where he is," she said. "Everything has gone from our house."

Kurban Aliyev, who had been receiving treatment in the hospital, said he did not freedom," he said. "They did not do anything to the civilians. The Russians started shooting and they shot back. They were shooting day and



New spy chief chosen in Yeltsin shake-up

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT YELTSIN appointed a new Foreign Intellience Service head yesterday to succeed Yevgeni Primakov, now Foreign Minister, and gave a warning of more government changes to come. Colonel-General Vyache-

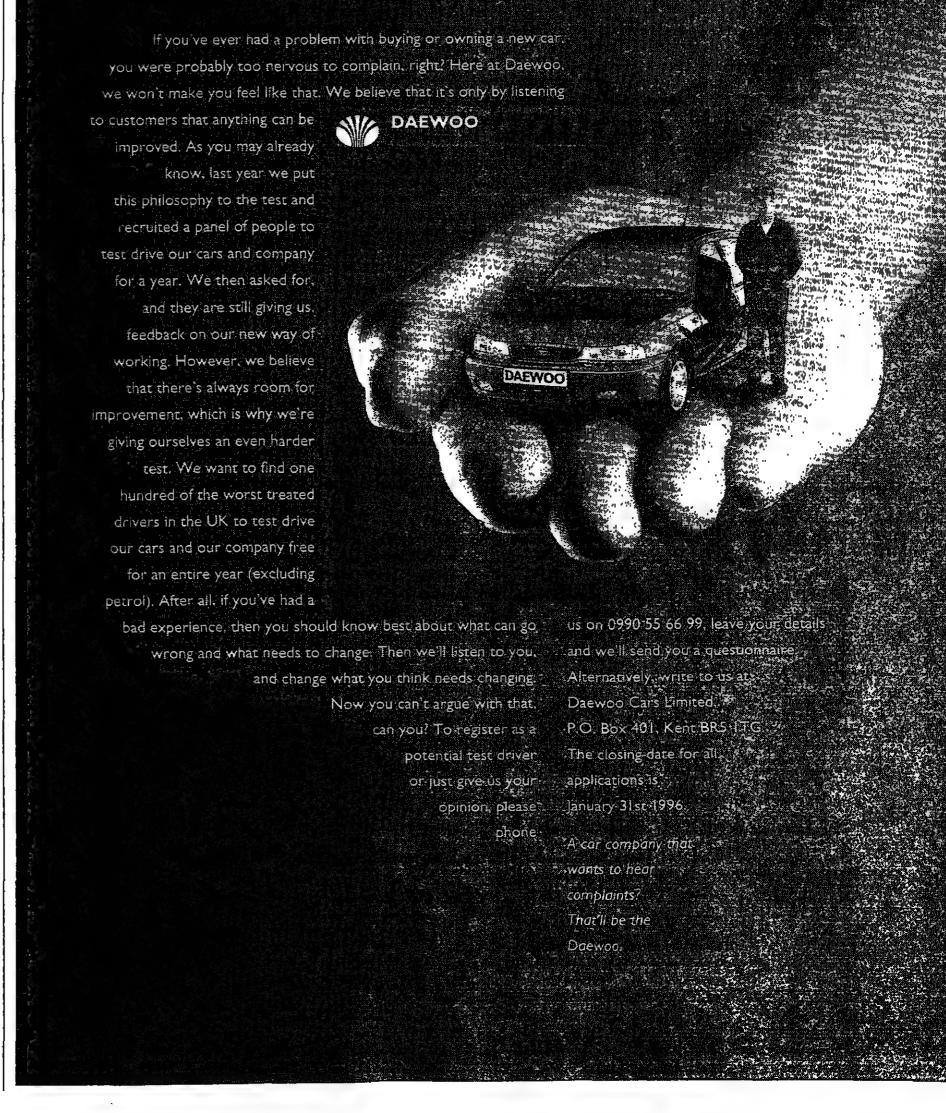
slav Trubnikov, 51, a career intelligence officer, has served : as Mr Primakov's first deputy since the former Soviet KGB split into several agencies 1 shortly before the Soviet collapse in 1991.

"I have looked closely at him and realised he was a skilled professional, respected intelligence operatives," Yeltsin said.

Born into a worker's family in the Siberian city of Irkutsk, General Trubnikov joined the KGB in 1967 on graduation from the Moscow Institute of Foreign Relations. Like his chief. Mr Primakov, the general is an expert in Eastern affairs and spent several years in Asia. The Soviet Government awarded him many decorations, including two Red Star medals.

Tass news agency said he spends his leisure time reading, listening to music and watching films and supports Spartak Moscow Mr Yeltsin also ousted the

Transport Minister, Vitaly Yefimov, criticised in the press over domestic civil aviation's safety record, and formally dismissed two minis-- Nikolai Travkin and Sergei Belyayev — who have left to take up seats in parlia-





Defeated Walesa to work on image in £6,000-a-year shipyard job



Walesa, the "Great Electrician", plies his trade at the Gdansk shipyard in 1989

By Roger Boyes

LECH WALESA, who was once dubbed the Great Electrician, kept up his old skills by fixing televisions and changing plugs during his five years in the presidential palace.

Now, still smarting from his defeat in the presidential elections, the former Solidarity hero says he plans to return to the Gdansk shipyards to work and restore his credentials as a

rugged, worker-politician.

Mr Walesa claims he has no choice: he needs a job. As a former head of state, he is not entitled to a pension, only to a team of bodyguards who will accompany him to

His actual wealth is a mystery. During the 1980s he picked up many

substantial advance on his two volumes of autobiography, and a controversial \$1 million (£640,000) film option on his life story from Warner Brothers.

Some of the cash was given to good causes and some has been spent. More than half the film fee went towards buying a family house in Gdansk and flats for two of his wayward sons. The Polish taxman insists that he has not paid his due and most Poles reckon that he is still a wealthy man.

The truth is that he wants to replay history. The shipyards were the springboard for the 1980 Solidarity revolution that eventually broke the

valuable human rights awards, in-cluding the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize, a the communists are back and have to be opposed in a similar way.

Former communists dominate parliament and the Government. His successful rival. Aleksander Kwasniewski - now touring Germany and France - was a communist

The return to the shipyards does not represent a burning desire by Mr Walesa to repair electric hoists. Nor is he desperately in need of the £500a-month salary of a chief electrician. Rather, the move marks the beginning of the next stage of his political career. It certainly means trouble for the likes of Jozef Oleksy, the Prime Minister who, in the last days of Mr Walesa's presidency, was accused of

day in the rundown yards (no longer named after Lenin), workers were taking bers on how long Mr Walesa would stay with them. He is not universally admired there. Younger workers in particular are less prone to the mythology of the plucky 1980s strike leader, and complain that he did little for them during his five

years in power. The yards, however, are important to Mr Walesa. He was an unhappy country boy until 1967 when, by joining the yards, he transformed nimself into a proud worker.

But the corruption of the communist regime was mirrored in the yards - meat shortages, arbitrary price rises, poor safety standards and political sackings enraged the workforce - and eventually Mr Walesa

missed from the yards, he had to climb over the fence to lead the 1980s

strikes. When General Wojciech Jaruzelski imposed military rule in 1981, Mr Walesa was jailed for a year. On his release he was offered his old job in the yards - to keep him out of trouble. He was put in the electrical workshop and in effect sealed off from the rest of the yard, watched closely by secret police. Even so, hemanaged to meet underground leaders - usually disguised in wigs and false whiskers - after work. Life should be somewhat easier for the born-again worker this time. This

is perhaps just as well: he no longer

has the physique for jumping over

shipyard fences.

French troops seize rocket launcher used in tram attack

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE rocket launcher thought to have been used in Tuesday's deadly attack on a crowded Sarajevo tram was confiscated yesterday by Nato forces.

French troops pinpointed the origin of the rocket and immediately returned fire after the attack with 20mm cannon rounds before surrounding a high-rise block of fiats in Grbavica, a Serb-held pocket in the city. Although their initial search left them empty-handed, yesterday they discovered the launcher.

A joint Nato-UN investigation team then re-enacted the attack, hauling the shattered tram and its 30-year-old driver back to the scene on the city's infamous Sniper's Alley. The rocket attack, originally thought to have been a grenade, had killed one woman

THE dead are rising in Saraje

vo as Serbs take their loved

ones away from Muslim rule.

as the coffin of a soldier was

pulled from his grave, an angry bystander said: "Don't

take picturest You wrote bad

things about us during the

war and now you want to look

In three weeks' time, under

the peace plan for Bosnia-

Herzegovina, the Serb-held

areas around Sarajevo are to

be handed to the control of the

Muslim-led Government. By mid-March the Muslim-led

army will be authorised to

Serb pleas to delay the

transfer have failen on deaf

enter the Serb suburbs.

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EVEREST'S JANUARY SALE . EVEREST'S JANY

In the Serb suburb of Ilidza,

The Nato peace implementation force, Ifor, has characterised the rocket attack as an "isolated terrorist act" carried out by rogue military elements and insists that all parties are showing exemplary compliance with the terms

of the Dayton, Ohio, peace

"We don't believe it [the attack] had the backing of any authorities," said British Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Rayner. a Nato spokesman. "It was a senseless and mindless act, but it is not going to stop the peace process." He pointed out that Bosnian Serb police as-

sisted in the investigation. But the Bosnian Government maintains the Bosnian Serbs are deliberately trying to undermine the peace plan. "We expect a swift and signifi-

relish government rule. Most

say, rejuctantly, that they have

no choice but to leave their

Until now few have had the

courage for the macabre task

of exhuming husbands, broth-

ers or friends. But as the time

to leave grows near, despera-

"I did not even dream this

would start to happen," Ivica,

oon nas prompted action.

Even the dead start to

leave Serb Sarajevo

FROM SEAN MAGUIRE IN SARAJEVO

Vice-President Ejup Ganic, who accused the Serbs of having orchestrated a deliber-

Last week Serbs abducted 16 Bosnian civilians as they entered the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza on roads recently opened by Ifor. Serbs at first denied holding the 16, but later released them under heavy pressure from Nato and the United States.

Angry Serbs in the five Serb-held areas around Saralevo, which are to revert back to government control, are furious with the terms of the Dayton accord. They claim that the disbanding of their Serb militia and police by February 3 will leave them unprotected and subject to recriminations by authorities they have been fighting for

nearly four years.

British Challenger battle tanks, which last saw action in the 1991 Gulf War, rolled into Bosnia yesterday, bringing heavy firepower to strengthen the Nato peace force.

A convoy of transporters carrying 12 Challengers, each armed with a 120mm gun and weighing more than 60 tonnes, arrived at the British supply base in the central Bosnian town of Kupres. ☐ Washington: President Clinton is expected to meet President Tudiman during a visit to the Balkans this weekend (Tom Rhodes writes). He will urge the Croatian leader

id sagic sula bilther countr

that might undermine the

American peace initiative in

head gravedigger at the flidza exhumation, said. "But people the region. The current United Nations mandate, which currently has I,600 Russian and Belgian UN peacekeepers patrolling the area, expires on Monday say they cannot live without being able to come to the grave every Sunday to light a can-dle." The dead soldier's sister wailed as Ivica jumped down and American diplomats are into the grave and lifted her anxious that Croatia make no brother's remains into a new attempt to invade an area it



Toti Librizzi outside the Palermo hotel where Giuseppe Di Stefano has lived in a three-room suite for 50 years

Mafia mystery of man in Suite 202

FROM DANIEL WAKEN IN PALETIMO

FOR half a century, Giuseppe Di Stefano has inhabited Suite 202 of Sicily's most historic hotel, leading a life that captures exquisitely the flavour of this island of silent oaths and secret societies.

The mysterious baron never leaves his three-mom suite at the Grand Hotel delle Palme. A barber comes every brings all his meals and a maid tidies up each day. An edministrator pays his rent. The reception desk turns away all visitors. The 89-year-old Signor Di Stefano's only companion is a 24-hour nurse.

This is the baron's existence as pieced together from those who know him. He lives under a Mafia-imposed exile, according to a story told by

on the grounds of his vast estate in Castelvetrano, Signor Di Stefano came across a trespasser and killed him. The young man's father, a malioso, threatened to kill the baron, who begged for an

alternative: perm from the world. "The myth of the baron is a mystery," said Enzo Caruso, the hotel manager, "Sicilians like mysteries. They like to the shadows." Secrets represent knowledge, so the "more secrets he has the more important the man is," Signor Caruso explained, acknowledging that the publicity is not bad for the hotel, although its

history speaks for itself. Richard Wagner completed Parsifal here. Lucky Luciano, the Maiia boss, ate in its restaurant. Raymond Rous-



Wagner: stayed in hotel

sel the French writer, committed suicide in one of its

rooms. Last September Giulio Andreotti, seven times the Prime Minister, stayed one floor

down from the reciuse for the

of associating with the Maña.

Years ago the baron used to appear for four-hour lunches in the ornate dining room with a few friends, wearing silk.shirts; a scarf and a white jacket. Toti Librizzi, the bartender for 30 years, remembers the baron's brown-andwhite shoes. Signor Di Stefano was a man of "culture". Signor Librizzi said. In years past, the baron would to the kitchett and direct the cook in preparing largely

forgotten Sicilian cuisine. These days he sees only a trusty handful of hotel staff. He used to listen to classical music, but the stereo seems to he gone. Now television news can be beard from outside the suite door, but no one answers a knock - protecting this most Sicilian of

Greek Left closes its ranks for crisis vote

FROM JOHN CARR

THE Greek Government was expected to survive comfortably a parliamentary vote of confidence late last night as Andreas Papandreou, the critically ill Prime Minister, showed signs of improvement.

The 170-strong Socialist ma-jority in the 300-seat legislature capped three days of debate on an opposition motion of censure by temporarily patching over its rifts over the possible replacement of Mr Papandreou, 76.

However, challengers to Mr Papandreou's leadership are more determined than ever to force the issue. "The will of the Greek people is clear," Kostas Simitis, former Industry Minister and front-runner to succeed the Prime Minister, told the parliament. "We need a decision, and now."

The statement emphasised the growing impatience with-in the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) at the leaderless state of the country as Mr Papandreou's incapacitating illness was in its eighth week. Serious decision-making by Pasok is expected at a crucial meeting of its executive

bureau for January 20. A clash of wills is develop ing in which the stubborn Mr Papandreou is expected to ignore calls for him to resign. Greece's constitution is studiedly vague on the issue of how to replace a serving head of government. The rules sanc-tion replacement only if a Prime Minister resigns or dies

in omce Details about Mr Papandreou's condition are scarce. A step away from death the week before Christmas, he was this week being given mild muscu-lar exercise by American therapists. Yesterday, however, he was racked by a fever and his doctors continued to rule out any significant recovery.

Leading article, page 19

ears. Having fought for the coffin. (Reuter) wishes to recapture. EVEREST'S JANUARY SALE . EVEREST'S JANUARY SALE . EVEREST'S JANUARY SALE **EVEREST'S** SALE . For a warmer, quieter, more Headok, which saves secure home twice as much heat as This January is the perfect time to invest in the best. Because regular double glazing and keeps you will get an amazing 30%* out all but the most determined of intruders. off Everest's complete range of home improvement products. First Choice Finance No small print If you want finance, we No catches, no strings, just can also help. We can offer an unsecured finance facility 30%* off every order placed in January for all our windows, subject to status. Written details doors and Roofline products. are available on request. You only fit double glazing once, so fit the best - Everest. * Off list price. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Different discounts apply to conservatories. Offer closes 31st Jamesey *96

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Mitterrand illness hidden for decade

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND knew he had prostate cancer from the start of his 14-year presidency but kept his illness secret for more than a decade. despite a promise to be completely "transparent" about his health, French newspapers reported yesterday.
The public was initially told

the former President, who died on Monday aged 79, had cancer in September 1992 when he had the first of three operations. Records suggest the disease may have been diagnosed as early as spring 1981, before he was elected for his first seven-year term, but a formal diagnosis may only have been made at the end of that year, after he was in-

stalled in the Elysée Palace. M Minerand's decision to hide the facts refects the thick veil of secrecy still surrounding many aspects of his life. By the time he "went public", he had been undergoing treatment to keep the cancer in check, including hormone therapy, for at least ten years, Le Monde reported. Robert Mitterrand, 80, has claimed his brother could have been saved if he had received better treatment. But the former President's widow. Danielle. and the couple's two sons insisted yesterday the family had complete confidence in his medical team. In a television interview on

Tuesday, Robert, who was also diagnosed as having prostate cancer, said he had advised his younger brother to see a foreign specialist, add-ing: "He could have been saved as I was saved."

mourning in France. Dozens of world leaders are expected at a memorial Mass this morning in Notre Dame cathedral, including the Prince of Wales, John Major and President Yeltsin. M Mitterrand's funeral and burial at his birthplace of Jamac, southwest France, will take place at the same time, attended only by family and close friends. Last night thousands went to La Bastille for a Socialist rally in his memory. BRITISH hopes of Italian support for a delay in monetary union spring from wishful thinking, according to the officials who are running Rome's presidency of the

the Maastricht cause as Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, warned parliament that Italy's dignity in the eyes of Europe was at stake in the country's political stalemate.

Italy determined to ensure EMU train runs on time

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN ROME

European Union while the politicians squabble over the fate of the Government.

The top Foreign Ministry and Treasury officials insisted on their country's devotion to Italy considers it inconceiv-

able to think of extending the January 1999 deadline for European monetary union (EMU), even if it fails to make the grade when the EU picks the first members in early 1998, Boris Biancheri, the new chief of the Foreign Ministry. said. "If it does not join at the beginning, it will do so after a slight delay." Under Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, Signor Biancheri's team is preparing to push what many British Conservatives view as an unpalatable agenda at the review of the Maastricht treaty, opening in Turin in March. The future of Signor Dini's caretaker Government remained uncertain yesterday after Silvio Berlusconl, his predecessor, said his bloc would move a resolution asking him to resign or face a noconfidence vote:

Asked by President Scalfaro to stay on, Signor Dini is in-



voking Italy's six-month Euro-pean Union presidency as a prime reason for avoiding the upheaval of new elections before the summer. After watching Spain gain credit with an impressive presiden-tial stint, Italy's elite is worried that political chaos could lead it to squander its spell in the Union spotlight and its chance to win back influence lost over the past couple of years.

Even if Signor Dini, a European enthusiast in the Italian tradition, stays on, there is concern in Brussels that he will be handicapped by the power vacuum. The return of a centre-right Government, their view because it would probably take on the more Euro-sceptical colours of the last Berlusconi team.

Italy is determined to keep the "EMU train" moving and hoped that it could show enough progress in bringing down its heavy national debt to convince its partners that it merits a berth in the single

COMPREHENSIVE

INSURANCE FROM

Boutros Ghali accuses debtor US

BY MUCHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, yesterday accused America of a "certain dishonesty" over its accusations that his organisation was not do-

ing its job properly.

He said in London that there were "those who, by denying funding, make the UN ineffective, then say that they are withholding funding

Addressing a meeting in Cen-tral Hall, Westminster, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first session of the General Assembly, Dr Boutros Ghali said the UN's effectiveness was being "corroded from within because it was being denied the means to

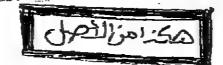
do its job property. He did not single out Ameri-ca — by far the largest debtor to the UN - by name, but expressed his general exas-peration with the refusal by the Congress in the United

States, as well as several other debtor countries, to pay their assessed contributions. Dr Boutros Ghali said the

UN was also weakened by its member states' inability to follow through their decisions. There was a clear commitment from member, but a failure to provide the means to make such undertakings real. The failure to mobilise and use collective force effectively has caused grave setbacks in OWNERS

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Republicans try to keep 'revolution' on the move

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN leaders were yesterday exploring radical new strategies to advance their "revolution" after the breakdown of their budget

negotiations with President Clinton on Tuesday night Both sides publicly insisted the negotiations had been suspended, not ended, but privately officials said they had serious doubts whether an agreement on how to balance the budget in seven years was achievable. Wall Street shared those doubts and the Dow Jones index opened sharply lower after plunging 67 points on Tuesday.

Crisic

Mr Clinton has spent 50 hours in direct talks with Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate leader, over the past three weeks. Mr Dole said "fundamental differences" remained, and while both sides have made significant compromises neither can give nuch more without alienating

its core supporters.
Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said: "The only thing now that is preventing us from getting a balanced budget agreement is Republican insistence that we have a

larger tax cut than the President deems necessary, paid for by Medicare savings that the essary." A balanced budget is at the heart of the Republicans' drive to put America's economic affairs in order, shrink the federal government and devolve power to the states, but Mr Clinton argues that their plan would devastate health, education and environmental programmes and shred the social safety net.

Officially the negotiations have gone into recess for a week to take stock of the situation. Republicans say they will return to the bargaining table if and when Mr Clinton presents some new ideas, but in the meantime they are exploring alternative ways forward.
One is to woo conservative

Democrats who agree with many parts of their balanced budget plan. It is doubtful that the Republicans could win over enough to secure a vetoproof two-thirds majority in both houses, but the more Democrats they can persuade to defect the more pressure they will put on Mr Clinton. Another possible strategy is for the Republicans to ac-



Newt Gingrich, left, and Dick Armey, the House majority leader, listen as Robert Dole struggles to hear a question at a news conference

knowledge that an agreement is unreachable, cobble togeth-er a stopgap budget for 1996 to keen the Government ticking over, and take their case to the people in November's congressional and presidential

elections. A Washington Post poll yesterday encouraged the President to stand firm. It gave him a 53 per cent approval rating and compared to 31 per

closer to theirs than the Republicans', and by 47 per cent to 32 they believed the President was trying harder than the Republicans to resolve the

In bald numerical terms Congress and the President have drawn much closer than

cent for the Republican Con-

gress. By 57 per cent to 36 respondents said Mr Clinton's

position on the budget was

at the beginning of their talks, but the figures mask deeper ideological differences. For example the Republicans have trimmed their proposed tax cuts from \$245 billion over seven years to \$177 billion, and Mr Clinton is prepared to cut taxes by \$87 billion, but the two sides profoundly disagree who the beneficiaries should be. The Republicans would now cut only \$253

AFRIKANER rightwingers,

who for months have been broodingly quiet as South Africa's transition to democra-

cy has developed, are to try to make their voices heard again

at a mass rally against what they describe as infringements

of their basic rights.
The raily, which is due to

take place in Pretoria on

Saturday, is being arranged

by the Foundation for Equali-

ty Before the Law. The organ-

November by, among others,

General Johan Van Der

Merwe, the police chief during

The African National Con-

gress has described it as an

attempt to drag Afrikaners

back "into the dark ages of

apartheid" and the organisers

as "a motley crew of ex-

politicians and retired civil

the final years of apartheic

isation was formed

billion from projected spending on the Medicare and Medicaid health insurance programmes for the elderly and poor, far less than they originally proposed, while Mr Clinton would cut \$183, but the President rejects deep structural changes in the pro-grammes and the end of automatic entitlement to benefits. For good measure Mr Clinton vetoed on Tuesday

Afrikaners to plead for their

night a Republican Bill that would have comprehensively reformed the welfare system by giving the states block grants, letting them fashion their own programmes, and limiting how long people can stay on welfare.

Mr Clinton said the Republican legislation would hurt children and offered too little help putting recipients back to work.

Rifkind gives full backing to Patten

BENETIES !

Peking: Malcolm Rifkind yes the Governor of Hong Kong in the final 18 months of British rule in the territor

Uames Pringle writes).
"It is highly desirable for th
British and Chinese sides to
have a full dialogue incorpor rating those who have a

important role to play," said the Foreign Secretary. He said he had also pressed China on alleged abuses in Chinese orphanages and the jailing of the dissident, We Jingsheng. Claims that M Rifkind had "blundered" dur ing talks with his Chines counterpart, Qian Qichen were denied by Hong Kong officials yesterday. "We put no credence on the story."

Britons feared kidnapped

Jakarta: Reports that 1people, four of them British have been kidnapped in Bal iem Valley, in Indonesia' easternmost province of friat Jaya, are to be investigated by British Embassy officials Sources said the captured group was working for the World Wide Fund for Nature and may also include two Dutch and a German. (APF)

Tokyo minister

Tokyo: Ryutaro Hashimoto the conservative Japanese Prime Minister-designate, has named Wataru Kubo, 66, sec retary-general of the Socialis Party, as Finance Minister media reports said. (Reuter)

Poisoners killed

Peking: A mother and son have been executed for killing 18 people and making 160 ill in a mass poisoning in southern China. The woman said spir its had driven her to rid the

world of bad people. (Reuter)

Brando paroled Los Angeles: Marlon Bran do's son was paroled after serving almost five years for manslaughter, prison officials said. Christian Brando sho his sister's boyfriend at their

father's home. (Reuter) Crash arrests

Kinshasa: Three Russian crew members of a cargo plane which ploughed into a Zairean market were arrested as aid workers out the death toll at over 350. The flight recorder was found. (Reuter)

Korea arrests

Scoul: Two confidants of Chun Doo-hwan, South Ko rea's former President, were arrested on charges of collect ing slush money from firms

Guatemala City: Ann Ahern a British tourist, and ar American woman friend have been shot dead at Lake Atitlar 40 miles from here, police

of replies. (Reuter)

OJ Simpson explains his innocence in \$30 video

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOW ANGELES

O. J. SIMPSON is ready to put his side of his acquittal, but only to those prepared to spend \$29.95 (£19.50) on his 2 -hour video.

In a staged interview, the former American football star and sports commentator hopes to demolish the notion mystery for 90 minutes during which his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, were murdered 18 months ago. In clips from the video obtained by an American television programme, he claims that the lights were on in his house throughout this time. but that they could not be seen by a limousine driver who came to pick him up and claimed that the whole proper-

ty was in darkness. The millions who followed determined to eas Mr Simpson's year-long murder trial will find such arguments hard to take unless they the train runs on m are among those who rejoiced at his acquittal. Neither he nor his lawyers claimed during the trial that lights were on at his house on the night of June 12, 1994, nor did the defence

offer a watertight alibi. OJ Simpson: The Video comes after mainstream news organisations rejected his terms for an interview. The video, which goes on sale this weekend, is also designed to raise money to fight his legal battle against the families of Brown Simpson and Goldman, who have filed wrongfuldeath claims against him.

First Lady faces fresh onslaught over 'lies'

By MARTIN FLETCHER

WHITE House officials were struggling to develop a damage-control strategy yesterday as the attacks on Hillary Clinton's veracity continued. Alfonse D'Amato, the Sen-

ate Whitewater committee chairman, was holding a press conference last night to spell out why he believes the First Lady concealed her in-volvement with the corrupted bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair, and her central role in the unwarrantman White House travel

Senator D'Amato's committee will hear today sworn evidence from Richard Massey, one of Mrs Clinton's former Rose law firm colleagues, who is expected to undermine further her claims to have had minimal involvement with the bank. Madison Guaranty. The First Lady has said it was Mr Massey, not she, who secured Madison as a client and did most of Rose's work for the bank.

A memo written by one of Mrs Clinton's close friends during the 1992 campaign suggested that Mr Massey had agreed to go along with those statements, but he has allegedly now told investigators they are not true.

Meanwhile, an ABC News

poll indicates that 50 per cent of Americans no longer believe Mrs Clinton is telling and media criticism has spread to most mainstream newspapers. The Washington Post said: "The First Lady has some explaining to do". The New York Times bemoaned the Clintons' endless

"obfuscations". Striking back, the Clintons lawyers are suddenly appearing on television shows to condenin the attacks as a partisan witch hunt.

Woman in coma made pregnant

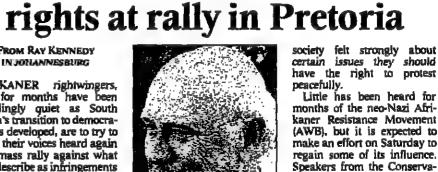
FROM QUENTIN LETTS

A WOMAN who has been in a coma for 11 years has become pregnant and is expected to give birth. The identity of the father is not known, but in a shocking case the woman's family alleges that she was assaulted while she lay, motionless and speechless, in a New York nursing home.

The unnamed 29-year-old. in 1985, was moved from the Westfall Health Care Centre in Rochester, New York, when she was discovered to be pregnant. She is now at a hospital where her family hopes the baby will be born in

April.

The police have questioned employees, including John Horace, a nursing aide who left after being charged with assaulting a female resident.



initiating the protest servants who are unable to accept their loss of influence". The National Party yesterday strongly denied an ANC

claim that the protest had been initiated by its leader. F. W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President. A spokesman said the ANC did not have the sole right to stage demonstrations and that if other sectors of

country's 1994 election, the Freedom Front and the National Party will address the

The organisers also anticipate that there will be a large contingent of disgruntled former members of the defence force. They have urged people to turn up if they feel ag-grieved by the prosecution of former senior security officials, such as General Magnus Malan, the former Defence Minister, affirmative action and the treatment by President Mandela's Government of the Afrikaans language.

tive Party, which boyconed the

Mr Chun is in jail on charge: relating to a 1979 coup. (AFP)

Tourist deaths

said. Both had been living ir Alaska. (AP)

Winner takes all

Bonn: Walter Thiele, 75, a German millionaire, has advertised for a man to look after wife, 29, and his fortune wher he dies. He has had hundreds

Snowbound Americans ski to freedom on the Internet stay in touch with others who left the

rule.

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

CYBERSPACE, that final frontier of the computer-literate, came into its own this week with thousands of snowbound Americans surfing the Internet as a swift remedy for universal cabin fever.

With a third of the United States still buried under record snowfalls, new flurries in Washington and New York yesterday and further blizzards expected in New England this weekend, many on the East Coast gave up all hope of returning work, instead uploading

spreadsheets and e-mail on terminals at home.

The Blizzard of '96, one of America's worst storms this century, may have left the country paralysed and airports and cities digging themselves out of snowdrifts, but it has offered the first real emergency test for the high-tech world of on-line.

Although detailed weather reports have been popular, sledging in cyberspace for information about closed schools and air terminals, blocked roads and the arrival of snowploughs has proved a less than amusing experience for many who have relied on the traditional chan-

delivery + VAT)

nels of newspapers, television and radio.

Instead, it seems, laptops are being used to relieve the relentless boredom of millions confined to the four square walls of their homes from Alabama to Maine. America on Line, the largest service in the country, said yesterday that usage was up 60 per cent. Special chat lines named Cabin Fever or Snowed In were jammed with people flirting and joking. If not always stimulating, the repartee was nonetheless constant. "I need a sled," wrote one in Snowed In. "I need a flame-

thrower," came the response. "I

need a drink," chimed in another. People who never had computers before are getting on line," William Giles, a spokesman for Compu-serve, said. "The snowstorm is

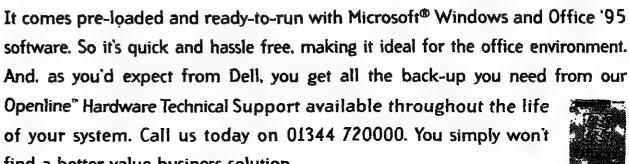
giving them time to play."

It also offered many the opportunity to work from home. Sherrie Connelly, president of the Strategy Foundation. a Washington-based management consultancy, was helping to run a conference in Pennsylvania, one of the worst hit states. When the storm first struck.

Fortunate enough to return home before becoming snowbound, Mrs Connelly has used the Internet to

gates still stranded in Philadelphia. With newspaper deliveries con-fined to only the largest organisations on already ploughed main roads, on-line services for larger publications yesterday reported a big upsurge in users. The Philadelphia Inquirer, unable to distribute its editions for the first time in its 166-year history at the height of the blizzard, has had 152,000 on-line subscribers in the past two days. more than double its normal output. service, also had large increases.

conference and several other dele-









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Concluding our series: The truth about male and female menopause...

- Does the male menopause really exist? Jeremy Laurance finds that men too can suffer from hormonal changes — and it can be treated
- Hormone replacement therapy brings relief from the classic short-term symptoms of female menopause, but how safe is it in the long term?
- Rita Carter assesses the effectiveness of remedies for male baldness



- Opposite, Leslie Kenton on how water can heighten your energy and improve your skin
- Simple breathing techniques can improve your mood, increase your resistance to illness and help you to sleep
- Daniel Johnson discovers that writers have always been obsessed with ageing

s ageing image © LIFE MAGAZINE/BOBBY NOEL-ADAMS

MALE MENOPAUSE

mood that slips first, sometimes the performance. There may be a growing tetchiness, an air of gloom, an unfamiliar brittleness. Or there may be the dreaded limp, as one sufferer put it, a state of permanent detumescence that casts a long can be dangerous. shadow over a man's midlife.

The male andropause — so-called to distinguish it from the female menopause - is said to be responsible. Until recently, the notion of a male pause of any kind drew illconcealed contempt from the medical establishment. But gradually the idea that men undergo hormonal changes in parallel with women has gained wider acceptance.

Next year, a version of hormone replacement therapy for men will be available on prescription in Britain. The Androderm patch, which will deliver a measured dose of sex hormone testosterone through the skin, is already licensed in the United States.

However, specialists are concerned that fashion, not clinical need may drive de-mand. Men with dead-end jobs or dull marriages may seek release from humdrum lives through a treatment already described as an elixir of youth. The women who have to live with newly libidinous partners may see it differently. Dr Malcolm Carruthers, the

Harley Street specialist who has long championed the notion of a male menopause though he favours the less wimpish term "viropause" has treated more than 1,000 men over the past eight years. "It is not just a matter of boosting sexual desire. There is a loss of drive in the bedroom and the boardroom, with growing fatigue and irritability that makes men difficult to live with. It is as if they have run out of steam."

The male menopause is gradual and only has serious ffects — causing the bone thinning disease osteoporosis, for example — in some men to be at work. There is a natural decline in testosterone levels and a reduced sensitivity to the hormone, which is produced in the testicles. At the same time there is a decline in the mildly adrogenic hormones secreted by the ad-

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renal glands, sometimes referred to as the adrenopause. Replacing the lost hormones with pills or skin patches has been shown to bring physical and psychological benefits and improve general well being in carefully selected patients. But indiscriminate prescribing

Professor John Grimley Evans, professor of clinical geratology at the University of Oxford, says: "There is growing interest in whether aspects of the ageing process might be treated by hormonal means. But one doesn't lightly rush in produce unwanted effects such as increased aggression and

There are fears that boost-

'Men with deadend jobs or dull marriages may seek release from humdrum lives through an elixir

ing testosterone levels may increase the risk of heart attacks and prostate cancer. Nor should ordinary men expect a capsule of hormone to transform them into spectacular lovers. It cannot turn wimps into warriors.

of youth'

Professor Grimley Evans says that people should be aware that the menopause is coming. "It is a potentially dangerous time. It is very sad when you see men letting themselves go to pot, putting on weight and hitting the

Many specialists worry that old age may be treated as if it were a testosterone deficiency - a condition cured with a bottle of potion. Some men. like some women, view the sexual pressure. As a wise physician once put it: "Three happy old age: a set of comfortable false teeth, a good pipe and a total lack of libido."

JEREMY LAURANCE

Run out of steam? Get a change of life



FEMALE MENOPAUSE

cay" that tipped the balance for Dr Miriam Stoppard, the television not being able to get out the next word. It was an early sign of the menopause, so started taking hormone replacement therapy immediately. Within a week I was back to normal." For Claire Rayner, the agony aunt and author, it was menopausal hot flushes that were driving me potty". HRT put an immediate stop to them.

The MP Teresa Gorman

and the novelist Fay Weldon are also advocates of HRT. With such testimony, it is not surprising that one in five postmenopausal women are taking HRT and that one in three are predicted to be on it by the year 2000. Actress Kate O'Mara describes HRT as "the last frontier to the emandpation of women". But how

safe is it? The jury is still out, according to Dr Madge Vickers, who is about to start the largest trial of HRT in the world, recruiting 36,000 women to

her study. There is little doubt amon doctors that HRT brings relief from the classic short-term symptoms of the menopause

— hot flushes, night sweats
and vaginal dryness. But it is the long-term effects — when HRT is taken for five to ten years - that views diverge.

HRT is credited with halving the risk of heart disease but raising the risk of breast cancer. It is valuable as a defence against the bone-thinning disease, osteoporosis. But fears that it could increase the likelihood of endometrial cancer have now receded. Most HRT studies involve

only small numbers of women. One of the latest, published in the US journal Obstetrics and Gynecology, suggests that it cuts the death rate by half, mainly by reducing the risk of heart disease.

Fears about a link between and then receded, were reawakened last year by a study in the New England Journal of Medicine. It showed a 40-50 per cent increase in breast cancer in women who had taken HRT over the long term.



Teresa Gorman: takes HRT

'In the short term HRT will bring benefits, but in the long term there is a risk of

for at least five years. Dr Vickers says: "People now feel there may be an increased risk of breast cancer with every extra year of use."

breast cancer'

The difficulty for doctors advising women is that most research evidence is based on rations. When the increase in endometrial cancer was noted combined preparations, which included progestogen, were introduced, which have largely eliminated this risk. What is not known is the effect of

progestogen on heart disease. Dr Vickers says the question of whether to take HRT is one each woman must weigh up for herself, in consultation with her doctor. "There is little doubt treatment will bring benefits in the short term. In the long term, she will derive some benefit in terms of a stroke, but that may be at the cost of an increased risk of breast cancer. The question is how importantly that figures

JEREMY LAURANCE

Keep your hair on, naturally Retinoic acid is usually used to

5,000 years but it is only now that they have come up with remedies - other than wigs and hair weaving — that have any measurable effect. Surprisingly, given the demand for a baldness cure, all the current and emerging treatments were originally develfor other conditions. Their effect on hair was a

chance discovery. Male pattern baldness is hereditary and affects nearly all men sooner or later. It is caused by the effect on the hair follicies of a substance called dihydrotestosterone (DHT) -a by-product of the male sex hormone testosterone. As men get older, more testosterone is causes their hair to recede from the temples, or to fall out on the crown.



A group of drugs called alpha reductase inhibitors stop testosterone being converted into DHT. These drugs were developed to prevent prostate enlargement, but in the course of trials it became apparent that they had an effect on hair loss, too. The best known drug of this type is Proscar. It is available only on

prescription, and it is not yet licensed for use for baldness though some hair clinics already prescribe it.

At the moment the only drug which is licensed for pattern baldness is Minoxidil - sold as a lotion called Regaine. Minoxidil was originally developed as a blood pressure controller and. as with Proscar, its effect on hair regrowth only came to

light by accident. Minoxidil does not work for everyone - about one in three men get some hair regrowth results. The new hair, however, tends to be rather fluffy. and if you stop using the lotion the regrowth disappears. Best starting as soon as the bald patch appears. Regaine costs

REMEDIES FOR BALDNESS about £25 for a month's supply, and, as you need to use it

> Possible side-effects include low blood pressure. Minoxidil may work better in conjunction with Retinoic acid - a vitamin A derivative related to Retin-A, the antiwrinkle cream. On its own Retinoic acid has only a slight stimulant effect on thinning hair, but used with Minoxidil

it has been shown to increase

regrowth by up to 30 per cent.

a very irritant effect on the skin so it is important to get it permanently, the cost of keeping your hair on is £300 a year. prescribed through a qualified dermatologist.

If you prefer to try a "natuseeds, Royal Jelly and the traditional Chinese medicinal herb ban lian cao (Eclipta prostrata) are all reputed to help hair to regrow. Alternatively, you can get new hair woven in, transplanted or, of course, off the shelf.

treat acne, and is not licensed for use in baldness. It can have

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The best pills to take

THOSE who are dedicated to health and longevity may he taking up to 40 supplements every day. But pillpopping on this scale is ill-advised unless you are an expert. It could damage your health and your wallet.

Rather than taking each supplement separately, go for a combined product designed to meet your requirements. Health stores now stock a number of antiageing formulations, plus "niche" products for postmenopausal women, male sports enthusiasts and so on. Alternatively, opt for a basic combined vitamin and mineral pill, then top it up with one or two supplements specifically for your health risk or problem. Take your

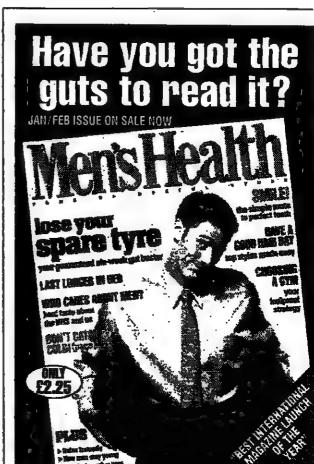
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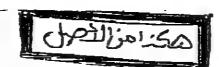
time choosing the basic product and read the labels carefully. Most will give the amount of each ingredient, plus the percentage that it represents of the recommended daily allowance (where there is one). Go for those which give the nearest to 100 per cent. Try to have a look at the tablets before you buy them. Some are the size of horse pills and smell like a brewery drain, and there is no point in investing in something you can't

rwallow. Those who need to top up with supplements may, for example, be overweight,

ment (up to 1.200mg per day) and garlic (1.000meg) to protect against heart dis-ease. Those who fear they are slowing down mentally may be helped by thiamine (100mcg) and boron (500mg) Zinc (25mg) can offset the effects of alcohol. Post-menopausal women and those who are fair and frail (the main risk factors for osteoporosis) need extra calcium — aim for a total intake of 1,200mg each day.

Pre-menopausal women may need extra iron. For more details about supplements, contact the Institute for Optimum Nutrition (0181-877 9993)





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APRIL D

...and how water and breathing exercises can keep you feeling young

up to

water

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

t the core of a lifestyle for ageless ageing is pure water — lots of it. Water is the most important nutrient of all. It is the stuff from which your blood, your cells, your muscles, even your bones, are

mostly made.

Let yourself become dehy-drated and the chemical reactions in the cells involved in fat-burning become sluggish. Not only that, but your cells cannot build new tissue efficiently, toxic products build up in your blood stream and your blood volume decreases so that you have less oxygen and nutrients transported to

Dehydration also results in your feeling weak and tired and can lead to overcating as it disturbs appetite mechanisms so that you think you are hungry when you are not. Yet few of us drink as much

rater as we need to remain in top form. On average, in a temperate climate, when not sweating from exertion or heat, we need about six pints a day for optimal health. Few of us consume as much as two. How thirsty you are is not a

reliable indication of how

much water you need.

Provided you do not suffer from a kidney or liver disease, drinking eight big glasses of water a day not only belps you to lose weight and keep it off. but it improves the function-

fit takes a but of practice ar first to make sure you get your water quota each day, but soon it will become second nature. Start by drinking two glasses of water first thing in the morning, either neat or with a twist of lemon or lime. You can best the water if was It takes a bit of practice at You can heat the water if you like. This helps with

Then drink two or three glasses between breakfast and lunch, and another two or three between lunch and dinner. When you exercise, or when it is hot, drink more.

Getting the water habit will quench your appetite, im-prove your body's ability to eliminate wastes, heighten your energy levels, improve the look of your skin and help your metabolic processes to function at peak.

LESLIE KENTON

Obsessed with growing older? You are in good company

WRITERS AND AGEING

THE DAYS of our years are three score years and ten, says the Psalmist. But the writer hopes to use that brief span in order to live for ever. Hence the thought of advancing age always creates a tension in the literary mind. Shakespeare's dark awareness that "Time doth transfix the flourish set on youth, and delves the parallels in beauty's brow" is suffused with the dim aurora of Wordsworth's "intimations of immortality".

Young writers can afford to ignore the process of ageing, and like Keats prefer to be half in love with easeful Death" - which sounds more romantic and is not yet real. They are in a hurry, and dread wasting glorious youth: "In headaches and in worry / Vaguely life leaks away," wrote the young Auden, and his sense of urgency is shared by must poets and novelists in

their twenties. The fact that some really do die young only reinforces the notion that death is preferable to decrepitude, and that ageing can somehow be put off for ever. Rupert Brooke praised the young soldiers who sacrificed on the battlefield "that unhoped serene, / That men call age*. John Lennon, the Sixties equivalent to the war poets, sang that "life is what happens to you when you're busy making other

plans". The assumption of the twenty-somethings that noth-

ing could be worse than old age is not necessarily shared by the aged them-Writers selves. Cicero have the thought serenity was not to be power to sneezed at, while Yeats mused on his spin their Nobel Prize medal. which bare the imgrey hairs age of a youth listening to a beautiinto gold ful Muse: "I was good-looking once like that young

infirmity, my Muse old as it were; and now I am old and rheumatic, and nothing to look at, but my Muse is young." Dr Johnson, though, was in no doubt that it was better to be young and frivolous: "If I had no duties, and no reference to futurity, I would spend my life driving briskly in a post-chaise with a

pretty woman." It is really only in their late thirties that most writers start to worry about the future. Perhaps the two greatest meditations on ageing in English, Sir Thomas Browne's Religio Medici and Robert Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy, were written not by old fogies but by men in the prime of life.

Some thirtysomethings take refuge in escapism: Housman dreams of his Shoothings that will die in their glory and never be old, and Gray recalls that "the paths of glory lead but to the grave". When Byron wrote some verses on the eve of his 37th birthday, he struck a lachrymose note: "My days are in the yellow leaf; I The flowers and fruits of love are gone: / The worm, the canker, and the grief / Are

nine alone!" For Cyril Connolly, it was fatherhood that made him feel his age (he was only 35): There is no more sombre



Rupert Brooke praised the young soldiers of Flanders

enemy of promise pram in the hall."

But it is also the onset of middle age which awakens an appreciation of maturity, and especially the attractiveness of the mature woman. Shakespeare wrote the noblest paean of all to her in Antony and Cleopatra: "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." There is no better female part in all Shakespeare, yet Cleopatra is almost 40 by the time the play begins.

In what stark contrast to the maudlin self-pity of men, though, are the calm reactions of the classical women writers

to ageing. As Chesnovel of the 19th century was female, and the greatest female novelists did not begin until they were past the first flush of youth: Jane Austen and George Eliot. They both contemplate the onset of middle age with equanimity.

While they acman, but my verse was full of knowledge the crucial importance of age in any social situation, they treat it as a fact to be reckoned with rather than as a misfortune.

> But, more than any other profession, writers have it in their power to keep spinning their grey hairs into gold. Shaw, who lived and wrote into his nineties, is supposed to have said of youth: "Far too good to waste on children."

> > DANIEL JOHNSON

Your chance to enjoy a free day at a health club and to enter our prize draw to win a year's free club membership Page 38

ral "ageless ageing". much of which centres on the use of the breath. This is something to which we give little attention in the West. It is strange to think that specific breathing techniques are ig-nored, given that the body's use of oxygen is the central determinant of the rate at which

One of the reasons regular aerobic exercise is so beneficial in slowing the rate at which you age and at warding off degenerative diseases is that it improves your use of oxygen. So can learning to breathe fully. It can also improve your mood, increase your resistance to colds and illness, and improve your sleeping.

Full breathing is also an important tool for encouraging waste elimination — a kind of spring-cleaning process that can go on all year

All we need is the air that we breathe

BREATHING EXERCISES TO KEEP YOUNG

round, every day of your life. Few people breathe fully. Most of us, particularly in sedentary jobs, breathe high that is, we breathe quickly and in a shallow way, concentrating the inhalations in the upper chest area, which is the part of the lungs that holds the

smallest quantity of air. Not only does this kind of breathing inhibit oxygen intake, it can also encourage the lungs to atrophy and to lose their elasticity - a common occurrence as people get older.

Other people, who allow the air to flow deeper into their lungs, are mid-breathers. But to make the best use of oxygen tant to develop the habit of taking total breaths so that they become a normal way of

In breathing totally, all of your breathing apparatus comes into play. The intercostal muscles expand the ribs outward to create a large space in which your lungs can inflate to their maximum. The diaphragm moves down, pulling the lower ribs outward, which lets even the very bottom of your lungs fill completely with air. Practise it lying down for

five minutes a couple of times a day - perhaps on awak-ening or just before going to sleep - and gradually it will become an automatic way of breathing. Not only will this help with ageless ageing, it will also help to improve your glow of your skin. It will also

have some effect in protecting other five seconds to begin you from minor illness. Here is the technique: with, then gradually increase

the time. Lying flat on your back with a small pillow beneath your Now exhale, following the same gradual process: first. neck, place one hand on your contract your lower abdomen gently, then let the the other on one

ower lungs deflate, followed by the upper chest. will help process should also take no more than five secto improve onds to complete. But note, it is the glow important, before beginning the cycle of your again, to rest for a second or two. ☐ Taken from The

ing: The Natural Way to Stay Young, by Leslie Kenton, published by Vermilion, an imprint of Ebury Press, £7.99.

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Growing older ought to

teach writers, like anybody else, to appreciate their elders. When I was a boy of 14 my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around," wrote Mark Twain. "But when I got to be 21. I was astorished at how much he had learned in seven

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your stomach.

Then expand your

ribcage to the side.

as well as the

five seconds

mid-section of your chest.

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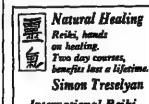
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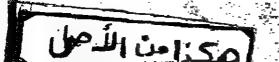
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hammer in vain on the lid. It is not unknown for patients to ask their doctors to make certain that they are dead by cutting their arteries before they are buried. I recently met somebody who had made just such a request more than 30 years ago. In his case the fear had been engendered in 1957 by wide publicity given to an incident in which a 78-year-old woman had been in her coffin for eight hours, but was only noticed to be alive as the pathologist was

about to begin a post mortem.

The diagnosis of death is usually straightforward. The death is expected and the end follows a amiliar pattern as life ebbs away. No pulse can be felt, the heart cannot be heard, the pupils of the eyes dilate and fail to react to light, und, if the surface of the eye is touched, there is no blink response. If there is any doubt, the doctor usually listens for the heartbeat for four or five minutes

Diagnoses of death

until convinced that it

has stopped. The days when a mirror or feather was held in front of the mouth are gone. The fear of making a mis-take is not that the patient might, Lazarus-like, arise from the dead in the graveyard, but that somebody who might have been resuscitated could be allowed to drift from unconsciousness to an unnecessary death.

I was called to a house once to see a young man who had been stung by a bee, had collapsed and apparently died. A retired nurse confirmed death, but fortunately I went immediately to examine the body and arrange for the coroner to be notified. Even as I started to mumble my condo-



BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

erwise it should be left to the doctor. Mistakes tend to be made in noisy surroundings where a heartbeat can be drowned by street noises, and the pulse may be hard to feel because of shock following blood loss. Intoxication with alcohol, and drug overdosage, may mimic death, particularly if the patient is

recovery.

was in the force he

was taught that he

should only venture

an opinion in the case

when the victim had

been decapitated, oth-

also exposed to cold. Hypothermia from any cause, including near drowning, can be misleading as can unconsciousness after an elec-

Many years ago an elderly woman patient of mine was so obsessed about the cost of heating that she kept her home freezingly cold. One winter's day I received a call from the ambulance controller to say she had been found dead on moved. The patient the floor of her cottage. It was too late to divert the ambulance to the had suffered transient renal failure, casualty department, so I went to and made a full visit her in the mortuary, and Diagnosing death noticed that she still had a heartcan be difficult. A beat. It was a classic case of a patient, unconscious through hypothermia, being presumed dead. former policeman told me that when he

In casualty the resuscitation team set to work, the patient was attached to a mass of wires and tubes. Soon the aged, cynical but very experienced and competent surgeon who was in charge of the hospital's emergency services, came to see her. It was explained that she had been taken, as dead, to the mortuary but was now alive and in his care. He examined her carefully, gave his opinion that she would have suffered irretrievable brain damage, and switched off the machinery, which by now was

Skin creams up to scratch

THE Betnovate

steroid creams and cintments have been an essential part of medical practice for nearly a generation. Last year Glaxo introduced Cutivate cream

which is, as it were, Bethovate mark two. This month the manufacturers have extended the range by releasing Cutivate ointment for treatment of dry, scaly eczema in which some moisturisation of the skin would be useful.

Cutivate does not have to be applied quite as often as Betnovate; only once a day if the cream is used, twice a day for the ointment. In general, creams are recommended in the treatment of weeping, moist skin conditions, and ointments for those lesions which are dry and scaly, or if the area is to be covered.

Cutivate is as potent as Bet-novate but is less likely to cause any side-effects if it is absorbed. It is recommended for use in cases of eczema and dermatitis but, like Betnovate, should not be ore

scribed for acne rosacea, peri-oral dermatitis or viral skin diseases such as shingles or herpes. Nor should it be used where bacterial or fungal infection is present or when the skin trouble is in an area prone to infection. Betnovate combined with an appropriate fungicide or antibiotic is available for treating those parts of the body

that might harbour organisms. Potent steroid creams should be applied for only a few days at a time to the face because the fine skin there may atrophy and develop skin lesions as unsightly as those the cream was designed to

Shaken and then stirred



A 425-page trea-tise, Akathisia and Restless Legs by Perminder Sachdev, recently published by Cambridge University Press contains no explanation for the syndrome when its origins are apparently spontaneous and not

THE restless leg syndrome is one of

the unsolved mys-

teries of medicine.

are unable to keep them still, and endure, together with their partner, restless and disturbed nights.

Their symptoms can occur at any time of the day but tend to arise after they go to bed and are normally of an aching nature, although some patients complain of burning sensations and irritation. Whatever the nature of the trouble, the resulting irresistible urge to move the legs inevitably causes insomnia, which the following day leads to tiredness, irritability and a poor work perfor-

an accepted side-effect of a drug.

But some people do suffer such discomfort in their legs that they

MERICE. Some surveys have suggested that more than 10 per cent of the population demonstrate some degree of leg restlessness; it is slightly more common in women than men. Rheumatoid arthritis, excessive coffee drinking and pregnancy are all known to make the condition worse. It is claimed that various drugs, including the calcium antagonists such as Adalat (nifedipine) provide some

Levodopa, the drug used to treat Parkinson's disease, is also prescribed by some doctors but its

The cooking fat that bypasses the hips

fter 25 years of research, a food company believes it has found the perfect butter substitute, says Nigel Hawkes

A FAT that tastes like fat but doesn't leave its traces on the hips or on the heart sounds like a dream. But Procter & Gamble's Olestra, now nearing the market after a gestation of almost 25 years, raises mixed feelings among food scientists.

Unlike some fat substitutes that are based on carbohydrates or proteins, Olestra is a fat. That means its taste and "mouth-feel" are the same as a regular fat, but it carries zero calories, and is not absorbed by the body.

Normal dietary fats are mostly triglycerides — three fatty acids linked to glycerol. The molecule of Olestra is bigger, consisting of either six or eight fatty acids linked to a sugar molecule, and resists digestion by the enzymes in the stomach. That means that Olestra passes through unchanged, with no chance to clog the arteries.

Better still, says P&G, it can be used crisps as good as traditional ones. Those who have tasted Olestra-fried crisps agree that they are good, though there is a slight aftertaste

The effect of frying in Olestra is to reduce the calorie count of an ounce of crisps from 150 to 60. A slice of pie in Olestra pastry would come down from 405 calories to 250, while a helping of chocolate cake would go down from 230 calories to 160. This could help slimmers, but there are cavests. Wouldn't they simply satisfy a fat craving by eating other things?

Olestra's opponents in America, orchestrated by Ralph Nader's Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CPSI), have focused attention below the belt. Because the molecules of Olestra move unchanged through the stomach, they can act as solvents, removing other nutrients from the body.

Vitamins A. D. E and K and betacarotene are all fat-soluble, and trials have shown that they can be stripped from the body by eating Olestra. P&G says that it has solved this problem by adding extra vitamins to Olestra-based foods, saturating the molecule's appeadditional vitamins. But they have not done the same with carotenoids.

A second problem is that Olestrabased foods can cause laxative effects or even, in the killer phrase latched on to by CSPI, "anal leakage". This has been cured for almost all consumers hy tinkering with the molecular structure to make the product more viscous. But how many people will be willing to take even the smallest chance of

embarrassing accidents? At the hearings before the US Food and Drug Administration, CSPI's executive director, Michael Jacobson, painted a ghastly picture of a young athlete subjected to taunts in the locker-room as a result of stains on his boxer shorts. This is not especially tasteful stuff, but when Mr Nader's raiders identify an issue, they fight dirty - in this case, literally.

There have been plenty of argu-



but this one is different in at least one respect. While additives, colourants or antioxidants are present only in small making up a substantial proportion of the food. The classic example of such a major dietary change was the introduction of margarines to replace butter earlier this century.

Some nutritionists now wonder if the trans-fats in margarines did not do as much harm as the saturated fats in butter they replaced. One of them is Walter Willett, professor of nutrition at Harvard School of Public Health, who now opposes Olestra. What will happen to consumers who eat it daily for years, he asks? He has described it as appalling" to propose giving a food to children on the basis of tests largely

carried out on pigs.

One unanswered question is whethments before about food constituents, er eating foods made with Olestra will reduce fat and calorie intakes, or simply encourage people to eat more to make up for what they are missing. According to Dr David Mela of the Institute of Food Research at Reading, relatively few studies have addressed the problem. He suspects that as far as calories are concerned, people will compensate by eating more, and the same may also be true of fat.

The artificial sweetener NutraSweet was supposed to reduce obesity by cutting calories. But people who use it also eat something else to compensate: obesity rates have since increased.

"Fat-substituted foods probably should not be relied upon to produce spontaneous improvements in fat intake, body-weight management or obesity," concludes Dr Mela. "But they might help some individuals as part of an overall, wilful effort to control diet." It is now up to the FDA commissioner. David Kessler, to rule on P&G's application to use Olestra in snacks and crisps. He will decide, not on the basis of whether Olestra makes nutritional sense, but whether it is safe. As American law stands, he will probably have little choice but to give it clearance in the limited market for which the application has been made.

In Britain, P&G applied for permission for the same applications to the Ministry of Agriculture's Food Advisory Committee in 1987, and is still waiting for an answer. From time to time the FAC seeks clarification on various points, and P&G supplies it -but if and when Olestra will be

approved is anyone's guess.

The irony is that Olestra is opposed by the very people who have campaigned for years to reduce saturated fat in foods. To their critics, whatever the food companies do is wrong.

Take two spiders and call me in the morning

ye of newt, and toe of frog. wool of bat and tongue of dog/ Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting, lizard's leg, and howlet's wing. . A recipe for horror or just a medical shopping-list? The witch's brew from Macbeth contains just a few of the ingredients which crop up time and again in old country remedies; some of them have genuine medicinal properties, others form part of traditional healing rituals. But given a trial period of several centuries, it is not surprising that many of them have stood the

Mary Beith, a writer and ournalist who lives in Sutherland in the north of Scotland, collecting traditional medicines of the Highlands and Islands. She has found a surprising number used within living memory, and some remarkable healing properties, which, she believes, merit scientific analysis rather than simply being writ-ten off as "old wives"

She has not sampled a newt's eye, but she has found prescriptions infrogs' skins, dogs' saliva, and, if not an owl's wing, then certainly a gannet's chick or the oil of a fulmar. Once, nursing a cut finger, she drew it across a spider's web and found the bleeding miraculously stopped; going to bed with a boiled onion in each armpit did little for her personal hygiene, but it cured a nasty bout of bronchial asthma overnight; and though she has

not yet plucked up the courage to swallow a large garden spider, she is in no doubt that it has properties which can help to limit the effects of a stroke.

"I don't think I would advise people to try all of these cures at home, but I have no doubt that a lot of the old remedies deserve a proper reappraisal," she says. The adder's fork and the blind-worm's sting from Macbeth are commonsense antidotes to snakebite; a frog. sliced in two, was said to cure dropsy: the gannet and the fulmar were so useful to the Hebrideans that they were described as "flying medicine

Ms Beith's book. Healing Threads, traces the origins of folk tales and superstitions, and finds a logical explanation behind many. She is convinced that the Gaelic healers in particular drew on a body of medical knowledge which has never been properly collated, and she has found fascinating clinical observations by early travellers which show that what might seem plain superstition to us, was often founded on sound medical practice. "To understand and do justice to their approach to medi-

cine, we must meet them half

ancient Highland remedies

Magnus

Linklater on

early Gaelic manuscripts show that doctors were listening to their patients rather than just dictating to them. They had a concept of illness which was different from ours. The Gaelic for 'I'm sick' is 'I have a sickness on me'. By this definition, the pain doesn't belong to the patient, and it can be made to go away." How a patient was suffering seems to have been more important than finding a-clinical definition of the illness.

Ms Beith is not, however, under any illusion about the value of what she has found. "Many of the cures are rooted



Mary Beith: testing ancient cures

in the beliefs of their time and depended on creating their own sense of drama. We could never go back to that." Nevertheless, she wonders whether there is a great deal of difference between some of the ancient objects regarded as having mystic healing qualities, and the way a sick child today can be encouraged towards recovery by clutching a

sporting hero's football scarf. or listening to a favourite tape. "Of course, modern medicine knows far more about physiology than the ancient healers did," she says, "but they found ways round it. There wasn't a lot they could do about heart disease, for instance, so they treated the symptoms, like dropsy, or chest pains. An inner sickness, they reasoned, might be healed by a lotion or a poulreasoned, might be tice. An external one, like skin disease, by purifying the inner

Psychology played a big part in convincing patients that they could be cured, so pagan incantations, the powers of a particular healer, and an instinctive belief in ritual were important elements in the healing process - not, perhaps, so very different from lar doctor can be every bit as important as the pills he or she

prescribes.

A favourite Celtic remedy for lung disease was a carrot poultice, made out of crushed wild carrots, heated, mixed with oatmeal then applied to the chest. Wild carrot does indeed have medicinal properties, but it could never of itself reverse a cancerous growth. Applied by a confident healer, however, able to convince his patients that they were on the road to recovery, the remedy

might achieve a miracle. Certain plants, animals and insects were plainly of more use than others, and Ms Beith has not only sought them out, she has tried many herself. Eyebright, the aptly-named plant which has long been effective as a soothing eye-wash, can, she found, if simmered in milk, drained off and drunk, be of long-term help in curing redness and soreness round the eyes.

Thyme, one of the most potent of tonics, known as-"the king's herb" in Gaelic, was prescribed for nerves and weak chests, and was once popular as She found it was a very effective sleeping draught when brewed up like tea. "It's perfectly foul," she admits, "but effective."

Perhaps most interesting were the plants commonly used to heal wounds or bruising. Kidney vetch, primrose leaves, bogbean, and especially ribwort plantain. stopped bleeding when applied to cuts, and rapidly led to the forming of a

second skin. It was while Ms Beith was in Mull that she also discovered the healing properties of the spider's web. I had caught my finger on the snib of a gate," she says, "and the bleeding wouldn't stop. I went into a byre draped with across a spider's web, and the bleeding stopped."

he also thinks that there might be something in the old belief that swallowing a large garden spider gives relief in the aftermath of a stroke. "The main damage is caused by the body overproducing glutamates," she says. "Spider venom counteracts this. It has certain properties that stop spasms. It has to be live, because then it goes down the throat spitting venom. A friend from Shetland told me that up there they cover the spider with butter first. It makes it easier to swallow."

Perhaps, once again, Shakespeare knew something about this. In Richard III, Queen Margaret, Henry VI's widow, asks Elizabeth: "Why strew'st thou sugar on that bottled spider?"

Healing Threads by Mary Belth is published by Polygon (£9.99).



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Darling baba, all love Larry

The ink is fading on the scrap of paper, the handwriting almost illegible.

"My darling," it reads. Here's your thesarus (sic). You see I was listening all those times you mentioned it! Happy, happy

birthday." Vivien Leigh scribbled this to her husband Laurence Olivier, on one unspecified birthday. It is a poi-gnant fragment from the happy moments in a marriage that was soon to descend into madness and

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Section 1

It was a trivial note, but Lord Olivier could not bear to throw it away. A compulsively organised man, he kept everything from steamboat tickets to love letters. In the loft of his home in Steyning, West Sussex, dozens of suitcases are buiging with yellowing missives and neatly-kept engagement diaries, full of entries such as: 22 July 1951: lunch: Judy Garland and daughter. Orson Welles. Peter Finch. Ralph Richardson, Hum-

In a nearby barn, in crates crawling with silverfish, there are letters from such luminaries as David Niven, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. Peggy Ashcroft, Richard Attenborough, Noel Coward and Christopher Fry.

Olivier's letters to his friends began either "Darling baba" or "Darling boysie". He signed them "all love, Larry,"

The task of piecing these documents together has gone to Dereck Granger, a former theatre critic

Granger, a former theatre critic and the producer of the television adaptation of Brideshead Revisited, in which Olivier played his swansong role as Lord March-

Granger was a close friend of the actor and now the Olivier family, who have been stung by the allegations in Donald Spoto's unauthorised biography, has chosen him to write the first official biography, which is expected to be

published at the end of next year. "I must say, I do sometimes feel a frisson of guilt when I am reading Larry's private correspondence," says Granger. "I am not sure I would like him to read mine."

Granger is sitting on the floor of Olivier's bedroom. His lordship's widow, Joan Plownight, is in Tenerife, his daughter Tamsin is downmairs in the kitchen. Picture windows look out on to the large nut housing the swimming pool, he tennis courts and the garden surrounded by thick hedges, "He tot very keen on topiaries and had rather disastrous attempt at rutting Chekhov's Three Sisters," ays Granger."

This was a typical piece of sehaviour from a man who wanted o be the best at everything. "I have never known anyone who had such in extraordinary aptitude for vork," says Granger. "He always nade one feel hopeless — as if one

Granger was a schoolboy in 1937 vhen he saw Olivier perform his egendary Hamlet. They became riends in the 1950s. "From a very arly age. Larry wanted to be in ontrol. When he founded the Vational Theatre, he was absolutey the leader of the company. He ven took it upon himself to rganise the stage-door man's leavng party; we have the letters he For the first time. Lord Olivier's biographer reveals the private letters of a theatrical genius, by Julia Llewellyn Smith



Olivier as Lord Marchmain

sent to every member of the

company. "He was not only a director there, but also an actor and also the manager. If you look at his diaries you see he spent the day organising schedules and talking budgets and then, at 7pm, getting into makeup and getting onto the stage.

"But during the day he would always find time to do some exercise, have a meal and a nap. He dreaded playing Othello because it was so exhausting. He loved drinking, especially his whisky, but he always gave up when he was training for a part. We have a touching letter to Anthony Quayle saying he has foresworn all earthly pleasures for the duration of a season at the National.

e never let up. On one day in 1955, he wrapped the filming of Richard III and went straight to Stratford to play Malvolio, Titus Andronicus and Macbeth. The next morning he got up to go to a local cinema to inspect

This energy and conscientiousness were Olivier's greatest gifts. They could also be his worst flaw. "He was as territorial as a tiger," working with him at Granada, he became more and more icily indifferent towards me. I couldn't understand why until someone said: 'He's jealous of you because you know the whole business of studios and scheduling. He can't understand why people were coming to you and not to him."

In old age he would get terribly trettul if he wasn't the centre of

family and demand: What are they talking about at the end of the table? But how can you be the greatest actor in the world and not

Olivier had total belief in himself and was intolerant of criticism or interference. "After he had seen the first cut of Brideshead, he invited me to dinner and blasted me because we had cut 30 seconds from his deathbed speech. We thought he would never nonce. He bellowed: 'I only took the role because of that speech!' By the end of dinner, I had rung Granada and begged them to reinsert those lines. It cost a fortune to put them back. but in retrospect I realised he was

right.
"He was also cross because he decided that John Gielgud had a better part as Mr Ryder. You have given Johnny the best part, he complained. We said: But only you could play Lord Marchmain, because he was so glamorous."

Tools were not suffered gladly: "We have one letter from a member of the National complaining that Larry had hit him in the shoulderblades, while they were standing in the wings and said 'Go out there and get more laughs)' 'I was practically sick on the stage," he writes," Another letter from Olivier berates the Rank organisation, who prudishly wanted to cut the "blasphemous" "Cry God for Harry" from Henry V. "Larry soon put paid to that idea," chuckles

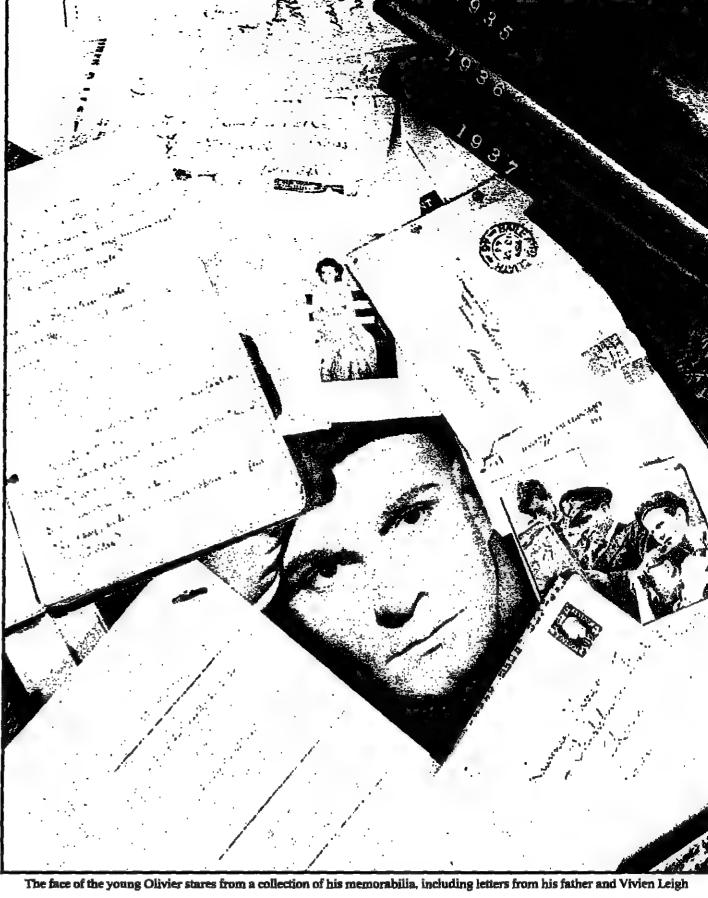
Yet this tyranny was laced with an extraordinarily sweet nature. He was enormously aggressive in the pursuit of his career, and yet so thoughtful in other ways. All the birthdays of his family are listed in his diary and every single cricket match and exeat of his children.

"He was a clergyman's son, ingrained from childhood with a sense of duty. Financially, he took care of his stepmother and

Olivier replied patiently to every fan letter. We have letters to schoolboys telling them how to play Macbeth and another letter to a training college in Staffordshire, which wanted advice on putting on Hamlet. He advises performing it in its entirety and says: 'It's simply a play about a man who cannot make up his mind. Don't worry too much about why he can't, he just can't and you must feel that he can't. He then apologises for not being able to lend any of the National's props."

In another letter to his third wife, Joan Plowright, he writes. "You have an absolutely marvellously uncalculated impish humour which is laced with an aptitude for self mockery. This last can be an invaluable but also a dangerous quality, which should be used must not always be relied upon because it will not always get you out of a hole ... Acting is basically a humourless task and that's what makes people like us suffer so. Your back is straight and beautiful," he writes in the same letter. "Christ, those corsets in this

weather. "I hope these letters will scotch Olivier's reputation as a bit of an



"There is a marvellous urgency and cogency to them, which many writers might envy."

Granger also hopes that the letters will show that Olivier, while a megalomaniac, was still keen to encourage his contemporaries' talents. "He was always writing to Gielgud, Scofield and Redgrave, offering them top roles. He would never play Falstaff or Cyrano

by Richardson." And he could laugh at himself, "I remember him in the swimming pool when he was withered and ill and he flung his arms in the air and cried 'Look at the sex symbol of the western world!"

Granger can throw less light on Olivier's love life, knowing nothing about the affair claimed by Sarah Miles. Of his relationship with

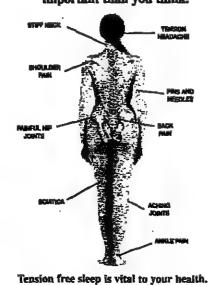
traumatic and draining time.) think if he had not met Joan and fallen in love again, he couldn't have founded the National. Had he stayed married to Vivien, he would have had a very diminished

CORPECT. Instead, Olivier went on to forge an even more dazzling career. There never will be another one like him," says Granger. "Not only

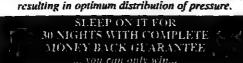
but because he was born at the end of an extraordinary tradition where leading actors were expected to play all the great classical parts. Sure, there are the Tony Hopkins. the Branaghs, but they disappear to Hollywood. There will never be a period when commercial theatres can also afford to put on Shakespeare and attract such dazzling

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No longer a man's world

T t seems that the old fashioned gents of the Oxford and Cambridge University Club are now attached to tradition only by their finger-tips. Uncivilised opposition to the idea of allowing "lady associate" members to become full members has dwindled to an embattled gang of 324 out of a full male membership of some 3.000 (the 500 ladies do not, of course, have a vote). But a ballot expected this month is almost certain to bring victory to the pro-change faction, allowing women entry to the inner sanctums of the club for

the first time. The mystery is that the antis have managed to fend off change for so long. A club ballot in 1993 showed a 3-1 majority in favour of equal rights, but it was rendered void because the turnout was just short of the required 50 per cent. Sixty-nine college heads have since resigned, along with scores of others. and membership is dropping.

But now that admission rules can be changed by a straight two-thirds majority. the club should be able to sneak into the 20th century

The stalwarts still opposed to change should not be surprised that they are referred to in the hushed tones of bemused curiosity reserved for endangered animals. Their blustering defence concerns issues of impertinence, disgraceful intrusion and various constitutional verities, and is



Joanna Pitman invades the male-only inner sanctum of the Oxford and Cambridge University Club

reception under yards of Tory

blue carpeting. It is said that

they are only allowed up as far

as the penultimate stair, for to go further would take them to the second-floor male sanc-

turn, the home of the club's

Could it be that the 324 antis

believe that women would

damage or infect the books?

Are they worried about the

oestrogen count or the decay-

ing action of sweaty fingers

(an old Japanese excuse for

preventing women from becoming sushi makers)?

having already witnessed two

men trespassing unaccompa-nied in the ladies drawing

room, I stepped out of the ladies lift and invaded the

library by a few feet, braced

for a volcanic run-in, or at the

very least a couple of stick pokings and a squirt from a fountain pen.

Risking life and limb, and

library and smoking room.

accompanied by remarks such as "I want to drink in peace. I don't wish to be surrounded by headmistresses and female dons. I do wish women did not try to run everything. They should restrict that to their families and homes." The most stubborn and

unclubbable may end up resigning. But some have already softened their stance. The winds of change are blowing and we're going to have to think again." Sir Peter Crill says. There may be a condition that there are two rooms set aside for members to retreat to -- a men's bar and a ladies drawing room."

eralded by a gracerum Pall Mall façade, the club envelopes the visitor with a cherished sense of Establishment. There are formal reception rooms, lofty ceilings hung with chande-liers, the odd hunting trophy and a selection of colonel-types gathered happily around fireplaces with their mems mur-muring "quaite" at each other

Bui ladies are steered firmly away from the marble staircase which sweeps up from the

bold plans for expansion

over postprandial coffees.

All change at Piccadilly: the Royal Academy reveals

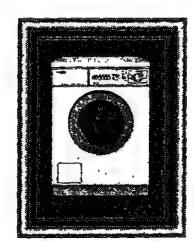
Three young gents were sitting reading, wearing permafrost expressions Savile Row-ish suits, while a squire in noisy tweeds was browsing the shelves. My arrival elicited a couple of harrumphs and one stern gaze over a pair of half-moon spectacles. Then an elderly fellow shuffled forward. We exchanged tense salutations until he finally confessed, with great delicacy, that I was trespassing. He said he took a dim view of this insanity but remained to avail himself of

the facilities and, most impor-

tantly, to facilitate swift im-

provement. May he succeed.

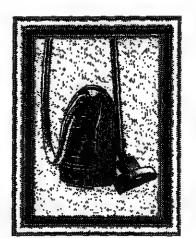
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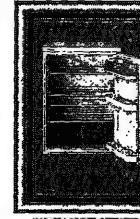
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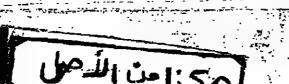


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Anything else is a compromise



Why Blair is no heir to Thatcher

David Willetts says Labour's real

stakeholders would be the unions

argaret Thatcher's speech tonight is a of Keith Joseph. That simple fact may be the event's most important political message. Keith Joseph showed that ideas matter in politics. The reason the Tory party has won elections is that it has won arguments. The ideas which Margaret Thatcher and Keith Joseph developed after they set up the Centre for Policy Studies in 1975 are as relevant now as they were then. Freedom, enterprise and ownership remain the Tories' big idea.

The market economy is ceasing to be the exclusive inheritance of a few Western countries and is increasingly enjoyed across the world. That is the challenge which John Major asks us to face. It is why we must make Britain the enterprise centre of Europe.

Labour's problem is very simple: it does not have a Keith Joseph. Its gurus are not thinkers but spin-doctors. They trade not in ideas but in sound-bites. They have not succeeded in working out a significant new left-of-centre alternative to modern Conservatism, and perhaps they nev-

er will. We are told now that they have a big new idea, the stakeholder. But that idea has a history. The language of stakeholders was developed by think-ers on the Left who didn't like what we Tories did in the 1980s. It does not venture into an exciting new territory

heyond modern Conservatism. It is an idea from European social democracy circa 1980: the sort of thing that Sweden, France and Germany are now beginning to abondon, but which counts as modem in today's Labour Party.

instead of real property rights, which give people genuine freedom and independence, stakeholding advocates legislative intervention by politicians. Shareholders' rights are thought to be somehow rather old-fashioned and backward-looking. Labour's proposed windfall tax on the utilities rests on this view of the world: it is a direct attack on the value of shares held by

millions of small investors. Of course any well-run business is going to want to look after its customers and its workforce as well as its shareholders. But we must let comoanies be as free as possible to work out their own way of satisfying these stakeholders. When the term is taken over as part of a political programme. it has a very different mean-ing. The idea is that companies must be forced to achieve social objectives for the community, as specified by politicians. This is where the European social chapter and the minimum wage fit in. The combined effect of these two policies is to produce youth unemployment of 2n per cent in France and 44 per cent in

Labour's approach to policy has always been to my to appeal to every interest group. The traditional way of doing so has been through higher public expenditure, and the

party certainly hasn't aban-

doned its instinctive belief that every problem can be solved more resources". But it has found a second way of appealing to interest groups: by telling them tey can be stake-holders. This has the advantage that the economic cost doesn't count as part of public expenditure; government can simply impose a new obliga-tion on businesses to do what

This is taxation by the back door, and just as economically damaging as conventional taxation, though more easily disguised from the electorate. But businessmen can feel it. For every £100 spent on wages, an employer in Britain has to add an extra £18 for an employer would have t add £32; in Spain, £34; and in France, £41. That's where the rhetoric about stakeholders

Governments would face a new set of claims for favours, in the guise of bids to become recognised as stakeholders. Whose stakes would be pro-tected by a Cabinet in which every single member was sponsored by a trade union? John Prescott and Margaret Beckett want to get rid of all trade union legislation. Who

do they regard as the cru cial stakeindustry? What government does Glenda Jackson's campaign is still against rail privati-sation, backed by the rail unions, tell the true us about who she regards as the main stakeholders in the

railways?
These are the old vested interests, dressed up in the latest language of corporate strategy. If I were running a successful firm, trying taking account of the interests of employees, customers and shareholders, i would be terri-fied about a Labour government taking the language of -stakeholders and using it for its own purposes.

gall to call this a commitment to "One Nation". True One Nation Conservatism — that of Angus Maude and Enoch Powell, as well as Ian Macleod and Reginald Maudling — was a recognition that the only way to sustain one nation was not to have governments picking and choosing between conflicting claims on resources. That just ends up as a Hobbesian war of all against all, fought through the political process. In a pamphlet, these Con-

servatives wrote: "Economic change is the normal environment in which nations live. and successful adjustment to it is a condition of their wellbeing. In six years of war and six of socialism, this important truth was dangerously obscured and overlaid." They saw that intrusive government was a threat to both prosperity and social cohesion. That remains true, even if believers in big government now dress it up in the lan-guage of the stakeholder.

David Willetts MP is Parliamentary Secretary at the Office of Public Service. He was director of the Centre for Policy Studies, 1987-92.



Not Granada's Forte

n the late 1980s I was chairman of the publishers Sidgwick & Jackson, which was then owned by Forte. My experience was that Forte was a very well run company, with a deep hotel culture in the family and the management. Because I enjoyed working with them. I have a natural prejudice in their favour. I have, however, a much stronger reason for being uneasy about the Granada bid.

I have come to have a complete distrust for the modern bid culture of the City. It is far too much driven by exorbitant fees which enrich banks and brokers at the expense of shareholders. It is more concerned with financial engineering than industrial logic. It imposes short-term views on British business. It is strongly influenced by personal vanity. It's most characteristic product has been the unwieldy and illogical conglomerate. usually with high debt; the invest-ment performance of these companies has been disappointing.

The Granada bid for Forte is a characteristic example of this bid culture. As "Lex" said in yesterday's Financial Times: "Granada's fight for Forte carries a whiff of the assetstripping 1980s." The fees are already enormous, and by the time Granada has made its proposed £2 billion of asset sales, the fees will be much. much larger. The whole of the industrial case has already been changed in the course of the bid. In its first offer of November 24, Granada promised to "capitalise decisively on the Meridien brand"; in the second offer, of January 9, Granada prom-ised to sell Meridien. An industrial logic which was seriously intended would not have been turned on its

bead in the course of six weeks. Personal vanity has been noticeable in some of Gerry Robinson's statements to the press. He is touted as some sort of miracle manager. In the past 40 years I have seen only too. many miracle managers come and go. There are indeed good and bad managers, and there are good managers who seize an opportunity, or hit a lucky streak. But the great majority of mirade managers cannot sustain

the miraculous performance. In its second offer. Granada boasts about its management skills, in terms which would be laughable if they were not taken seriously in the City. "Granada's strategy is firmly based on two parallel themes which are at the heart of the Group's success -Focus and Breadth." Apart from the Gerry Robinson's bid for the hotel chain would create an unwieldy group

opacity and confusion of the metaphors, this seems to be a contradiotion in terms. To focus means to concentrate the attention, breadth means spreading out. Granada is like a supermodel saying that her career based on two parallel themes which are at the heart of my success

 Thinness and Fatness*. I discussed his concept of focusing with Mr Robinson over the telephone. He explained that one can focus managerial attention on different parts of a diverse business. That is what I have been hearing managers of conglomerates say for 40 years. Most of them have

long since retired. So have some of the conglomerates. If Granada's bid is successful, it will take a deep bath of

debt. Before the as-

sets sales can be started, the debt will rise to between £3 billion and £4 billion, resting on businesses which have considerable exposure to recession. Granada was originally successful as a television business. It now covers television, including an investment in BSkyB, rental and catering. I: proposes to extend into hotels. The offer documents explain that this gives "Breadth across a range of related core businesses, to minimise risks to shareholders from a downturn in any core market". This again is nonsense. The proposed core businesses are not related, but random. There is no logical connection between catering and television rent-als, or between bonels and an investment in BSkyB. The one possible connection is that most of these businesses could be hit by a recession

ing sales all suffered together in the The Forte proposal, by contrast, is what Sir James Goldsmith called "unbundling". It would leave a relatively well defined hotel group. would help Whitbreads to develop a similarly defined catering group, and would leave Granada to run its existing businesses. The proposed Forte disposais do therefore have a

management logic. Granada spends

Herosius."

• With the blimards in America.

British diplomatic activity has

gram to the Foreign Office from

Gur man in Washington, Sir John Kerr, was brief: "There's a bliz-zard in Washington. The Fed-

at the same time. Hotel occupancy

rates, hotel asset values and advertis-

its time claiming to be the better manager, but the management logic of its proposal is much weaker. It would bundle everything up, take on a vast load of debt, and then sell off half the Forte assets it had bought, pay off some of the debt and still be left with a mish-mash of assets to manage. Even its own supporters envisage an eventual Granada unbundling to separate television and catering, perhaps in 18 months time. This is an extraordinarily roundabout way of restructuring Granada, which would in-

volve high fees at every stage.

The post-war history of the bid culture is not reassuring. The classic case Siegmund campaign in 1958 to buy British Alumin ium. The bankers Helbert Wagg were

Warburg's partners; they acted for Tube investments and Warburg's for Reynolds Metals. Michael Verey of Helbert Wagg has commented: didn't emerge for years that the fight was a very expensive one for the client. In fact Siegmund gave Reyn-olds poor advice. British Aluminium was not worth it at that price." That bid helped to make Warburg's the leading merchant bank in London: in bid battles, what is good for the banker is not necessarily good for the client.

There is always risk in what Granada is proposing, taking on an enormous debt with a view to future asset sales. In 1988, I remember meeting Robert Maxwell at a reception. He had just bought the American Macmillan. I said that people thought he had paid too much. He looked rather sheepish, unusually for him, but said he would sell this and sell that, and end up with prize assets at low costs. You know me: I never pay too much." In the event the recession came on before he could make the sales. That was the deal which finished him. More or less the same thing happened to Jim Slater, an exceptionally intelligent financier. He knew that he had to get back into

cash in 1973, but found that the 1974 recession had overtaken him. He had to sell the assets he would have liked to keep, because they were the only assets that could be sold. Slater Walker was kaput. I do not think we are in that stage of

the cycle now, or that the next recession is particularly likely to catch out Mr Robinson. On the other hand, Siegmund Warburg paid too much, Robert Maxwell was ruined, and Jim Slater got his timing wrong. Trafalgar House has not been a very good investment recently. Highly geared conglomerates often work well enough at the beginning, and go to a premium, but they usually end in to a premium, but they usually end in tears, and go to a discount. Mr. Robinson should remember three long-established principles. There is always an opportunity cost in debt exposure. There is always a time-lag between the decision to sell and the actual realisation of sales, And there is always a risk the market will turn before the sales can be made.

The City of London is a great institution, but it has one great weakness of character. It is always looking for easy money. Lloyd's names thought they had found a way to make easy money; they found out they were wrong. Barings thought it had a money-machine in Singapore; it found out it was wrong. Since the 1950s, the City has repeatedly found easy money in corporate finance, often involving the creation of specu-lative conglomerates, with the recurrent exposure to excessive debt. Some of these have crashed, some have limped along, only a few have been highly profitable in the longer term. There has been no penalty for the bankers or brokers who promoted them, but their managers have usually had meteoric careers ending in splashdown, and their investors, including institutional investors. have often come to regret their

enthusiasm. The City has a very short memory; it fails to balance yesterday's disas-ters against tomorrow's fees. Perhaps Mr Robinson really is the star manager of his generation, but probably not. He would not be making such a muddled bid if he really were that good. I agree with what he is quoted as saying in Ruth Tait's Roads to the Top. "I have a simple belief that if you get to the stage where you are panicking and think that you have to acquire something to achieve growth, you're in deep trouble because you make silly acquisitions."

Russia's ancient enemy

Thomas de Waal

on Yeltsin and the Chechens

ust over 150 years ago, in September 1845, the British Con-sul to Odessa, James Yeames, wrote a long report on the latest offen-sive in Chechenia. "No previous expe-dition into the same country was ever more disastrous, by loss of life and other sacrifices than the last, nor more entirely fruitless in its results,"
he wrote, adding that Count Mikhail
Vorontsov, a general who had successfully fought Napoleon, was now

bogged down against the Chechens.

Plus ca change. In 1996, the Chechen conflict seems to have turned into one of those wars in which everyone loses. The Russians are as stuck in Chechenia as they were 15 years ago in Afghanistan, with the unpleasant difference that it is supposed to be part of their own territory. Most ordinary Chechens are heartily sick: of the Russians and want them out.

Tuesday's raid on Kizlyar is a sign that the rebels can still, at a stroke, take the war to enemy territory with the kind of action which will never win them the war, but will give President Yeltsin sleepless nights. The Kizlyar raid is the grandson of

an old Chechen tactic. The Chechens the most dashing horsemen of the Caucasus and the most famous cattlerustiers, were famous in tsarist times for their lightning raids, known as nabegi. A 19th-century chronicler of the Caucasus, Sergei Bronevsky, describes how a group of 20 horsemen. would swim across the River Terek, hide among the boulders and then leap out on unsuspecting locals and take them hostage. "They are so possessed with ferocity that they spare no one." he wrote.

The Russians built the fortress of Kiziyar on the banks of the Terek in 1735, and it has been a Alexandre Dumas began his travels through the Caucasus in 1858 there, and his description of the town would strike chords with any visitor to Chechenia today. He stayed in an unfurnished house (the chief of police later sent round some furniture on a cart) and the 15-year-old boy who welcomed him wore a gun and dagger in his belt. His seven-year-old brother had a dagger as tall as

Chechenia today is just as tense and divided as it was in Dumas's time. The Russians have control of Grozny and the oil pipeline, and have installed a friendly Government in the republic. But Growny is in ruins and much of the population is still living in cellars and basements and in fear of the bullets of drunken Russian soldiers.

The rebel Chechens, under the old President, Dzhokhar Dudayev, are still at large in the hills, and more than a year after 40,000 troops were sent to finish them off, they are still resisting. Last autumn I took tea with General Dudayev's Vice-President in a house only a mile from a Russian checkpoint. The separatists may be fighting on, but they will have to face the fact that they have lost their capital and two-thirds of the republic. The hostility between Chechen fighters and Russian soldiers is probably as intense now as it was in the 1850s. This is a clash of two almost irreconcilable cultures, that of the Slav Russians and that of the mountain Chechens, who have never accepted Russian rule.

ut it would also be a mistake to Fromanticise the Chechen rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, and the men who carried out the Kiziyar raid. Rather than romantic heroes, they are players in a dirty post-Soviet game. In their hands, the Chechen cause has become a long feast of violence.

General Dudayev spent his career in the Soviet air force, and did not even live in Chechenia until he returned to be elected President. He promised the Chechens a miragelike "independence" that was never economically practicable, and yet kept up links with Russian officials and friends in the old Soviet air force. giving them a cut of Chechenia's black market wealth. After last July's ceasefire, the general had a very good opportunity to sign a political agreement with the Russians, but he

refused. The raids on Budennovsk and Kizlyar — when the fighters began by attacking military bases and ended up using hospital patients and children as human shields - show how debased the myth of Chechen gallantry has become. But if for the rebel Chechens even a defeat carries a kind of glory, the real loser of this war is Boris Yeltsin. Even Russian officials are now putting the civilian death count at 20,000. Yeltsin cuts a poor figure as the defender of Russia's interests, because it is clear that he had many other options when he chose to send in troops in December 1994. The whole episode smelt sharply of political adventurism.

Yellsin has called the Chechen war "the biggest disappointment" of his presidency. It may well turn out to be its death blow. Whether he seeks peace or escalates the war, the bloedshed will continue. Boris Yeltsin, the man who defeated Communism, had probably never heard of the Chechen quagmire that stopped Count Vorontsov, the man who helped vanquish Napoleon. If only he had read his history books.

The VIII The Pagestanages Contract Con

Firm friend

THE QUEEN is losing one of her most loyal servants. Today, the Rev Keith Angus, her domestic chaplain in Scotland, announces his retirement at the worthy age of 66, after 17 years at Crathic Parish

The reverend refuses to talk about his lengthy association with



Angus: retiring after many

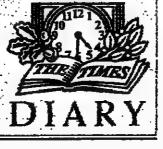
the Royal Family - Crathie is Balmoral's local church. But the height of his involvement came when he officiated at the wedding of the Princess Royal to Commander Tim Laurence.

Mr Angus says that he will miss munistering to his parishes of Braemar and Crathie, their combined population of 600 and 400 square miles of the most spectacular scenery in the British Isles. Only a few years ago, he was to be found on Saturdays hunting and shooting in the hills in his gaiters. I don't do that any more," he says. "I can't manage the hills any

In retirement, at least, he will no longer be harassed by the press. "I have been heleaguered by everybody," he explains. "But I never speak about the Royal Family."

The sole nominee to succeed him - in a post which involves regular summer barbecues with the Royal Family - is the Rev Robert Sloan from Perth. who will preach this Sunday at Crathie, the hilltop church overlooking Balmoral.

◆ The Prime Minister wasn't pulling any electoral punches at his breakfast for businessmen yester-



day at the Hyde Park Hotel. "One thing I have in common with Tony Blair," he josked, "- I don't invite John Present to meetings either."

Pink blues

DOMESTIC problems face Her Benign Pinkness. Dame Barbara Cartland. Her housekeeper is retiring at the age of 84, and the situanon has become vacant. Prospective employees must enjoy her colour schemes and her Pekineses,

"My housekeeper has been given doctor's orders to retire," says Dame Barbara, "but I have got advertisements for a replacement in all the local papers " Explaining why she herself is still going strong at 94 while her

help has retired as a cumparative

youth, she says: "You see, I have

naver had to scrub floors."

a little too risque for its own good. It has withdrawn a marketing card

Bottoms down

THE Royal Opera House has been



"It's never worried anyone

erai Government has shut down. that there were objections to bare Teis Embassy is emulating King buttocks, but says, "It is hard to get the image right, and when we consulted with the director and the deigner, we decided to change it." As the Oscar season reels round again, the Academy has declared

advertising Sir Michael Tippett's opera, The Midsummer Marriage,

ecause it features bare bottoms.

a nude couple holding hands will

be more modest. Keith Cooper, the director of corporate affairs, denies

Henceforth, the posterior view of

that studios must no longer bombard voters with expensive keepsakes to try to influence decisions. But the bar, does not stretch to videotapes of films, and the marketing men have been working overtime. Tapes of Tim Robbins's flick about death row, Dead Man Walking, arrive in coffins.

Just him

GOBSTOPPERS all round. The Just William Society has unearthed the young boy who played William in two films based on Richmal Crompton's books, made just after the war. Eddie Graham, now a 64-year-

old grandlather, responded to a party with lashings of liquorice nationwide call by the society from behind his sweet counter at the shop in Taplow that he manages.



The real William

"The call came out of the blue, but I'm flattered," says Eddie, whose career progressed to song-anddance routines before he threw in acting 15 years ago. "At the time, I remember Joan and Jackie Collins pestering me for autographs." The society promises a jolly good

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RED WATER

Major begins to dust down his soapbox

In the dim light of damp January, the topography of the electoral battleground has fast emerged, with enterprise and welfare as its landmarks. John Major now believes he has the enemy's measure. His central line of attack will be that, however far the policy detail of Tony Blair's "stakeholder" society is from being fleshed out, the idea itself is enough to open "red water" between the two parties. Mr Blair's vision, he says, goes far beyond giving free market capitalism a human face. It contains at its core an interventionist philosophy that stands in distinctive opposition to Tory beliefs in individual choice and Tory attitudes to the proper relationship between government and business.

At a breakfast for businessmen at the Hyde Park Hotel yesterday, Mr Major indicated the positions from which he plans to order out his formations. There was the expected listing of Tory achievements inflation "under more secure lock and key than we have known in my political lifetime", falling unemployment and the beast that more of the adult population are now in work than in Germany. He held out the prospect that this year will see a real revival in disposable incomes and almost pleaded with his audience to act on his passionate conviction that the recession is squarely over.

There was the equally to be expected don'tlet-Labour-ruin-it theme, as he presented Mr Blair's putative cabinet as a gallery of rogues, untrustworthy on inflation and soft on crime, the trade unions and defence of British interests in Europe. A vote for Labour would be playing "Russian roulette with all the barrels loaded".

Mr Blair's stakeholder speech, he argued, exposed "the tip of a plan" to impose new burdens on business which could not be benign in their impact, however skilfully they were packaged for sale. He gave one overriding reason: that they would make it more expensive to hire people. On companies, rather than the Exchequer, would fall the costs of Labour plans for corporate training levies, a minimum wage and,

potentially, an unstoppable string of direct debits arising from Labour's commitment to end Britain's opt-out from the European social chanter.

In his speech last November to the Confederation of British Industry, the Labour leader went to great lengths to persuade his audience that ending the optout contained no risk that "inefficient practices" would be imported to Britain from the Continent. Although he notably failed to explain just how this was to be done, since much social chapter legislation is decided by qualified majority voting, Britain could, he said, avoid being bound by directives it disagreed with. Many businessmen have since been further fulled into the belief that there is little more to the social chapter

than is contained in good corporate practice. Yesterday Mr Major argued, correctly, that this is a dangerous illusion. Business, he said, should look not just at what is in the social chapter now, but at what it could contain in future. The aim of Britain's European partners was to incorporate their domestic social legislation into the social chapter, with the express aim of eliminating the competitive advantages of lower-cost countries such as this one. Without the opt-out, labour costs would inescapably rise in Britain, where the non-wage element of the payroll is 18 per cent, compared with 32 per cent in Germany and over 40 per cent in France and Italy. Because the losers would be people not in work, this was not just economically wrong: it would be "plain immoral".

Mr Major is staking his chances on an intuition that between now and the next election, voters will see and recoil from the regulatory fist inside Labour's velvet glove. These are good, but difficult, arguments. Tory politicians are not the most trusted arguers in this regard. They will not easily triumph over the image of social cohesion and common effort that Mr Blair summons with such ease. Mr Major knows it. The Hyde Park Hotel is not Hyde Park; but there was at least a metaphorical soapbox in evidence yesterday morning.

ALL GREEK

Andreas Papandreou returns to play another set

The political drama now being played in Athens could be defined by using none but English words borrowed from Greek: the hysteria surrounding the illness of Andreas Papandreou shows only the Prime Minister's mania for control, his paranoia and hubris, the charisma he still projects over his nation and the catharsis his political opponents are attempting to bring about with a parliamentary motion of no-confidence. The long-term outcome remains an enigma.

In itself the news that Mr Papandreou is recovering after lying ill for so long is, of course, welcome. The man who has dominated Greek politics for a generation was said yesterday to have taken a few steps in his private ward. Less welcome was the news that his wife Mimi, with virtually sole access to the stricken politician, used this fact to insist that he had no intention of stepping down. Her unspoken threat is that he will soon recover sufficient strength to deal with those turbulent lieutenants who have had the temerity to call for his resignation.

The prospect of the avenging leader returning to full power is extremely unlikely. But it has been enough to cower senior Pasok officials and paint any moves within the party for a leadership contest as treason. Indeed, Mr Papandreou's spokesman recently suggested that any move to replace the Prime Minister would be unconstitutional. He was, unfortunately, right: under Greek law the Prime Minister can be replaced only if he is "not present" - a bizarre definition that covers both his death and his resignation. The two leading contenders for his iob have thusattempted to stir a party revolt that would make him resign.

Costas Simitis, a leading internationalist in the reforming wing of the party, and Gerassimos Arsenis, the Defence Minister, both recognise the damage the power vacuum is causing. They have already cast caution aside and called for his resignation. But they may not sway their colleagues. Although even senior ministers such as Karolos Papoulias, the Foreign Minister, acknowledge that Greece is drifting, they fear to take a step that the Greek public, sentimentally attached to a man who triumphed over political scandal, marital discord and physical illness, might see as opportunist ingratitude. They may also fail because of the attempt

by the opposition New Democracy to force the issue with a parliamentary vote. The result has been to unite Pasok. But in the final act, it may well turn out that Mr Papandreou, the founder of Pasok, destroys, unwittingly, the political vehicle he created. It appears that no one has dared tell him the real state of the party and country. His wife, still with delusions of political influence, has blocked any suggestion of resignation. Only his son George, a junior education minister, has promised to speak to his father frankly. He should advise him to resign forthwith. Mr Papandreou, in health, damaged his country's standing; in sickness he should not be permitted to damage it further.

AGELESS THROUGH THE AGES

How we may laugh at Adam's ancient curse

Old age is man's common enemy - and woman's too. But, because we are living longer and feel increasingly vulnerable to the pains, expense, loneliness and fears of growing old, age is our contemporary bugaboo. The battle against aging is for us what survival was for our rude forefathers. justification for our puritan grandfathers, and respectability and inheritance for our ambitious fathers. That is why The Times exploration of ageless ageing this week has hit so many funny-bones so sharply.

Some people have told us that they felt guilty about being so interested in what our Times doctor, Thomas Stuttaford, and our other writers have written on this subject. Take heart. These hopes and fears have been here before, not perhaps in quite the same way but with us nonetheless. From Rembrandt's self-portraits to all sorts of literature ancient and modern, ageless aging is an archetype.

The traditional tragedy of age is not that one is old but that one is still young in a decaying body. Growing up is recognising that one's parents may be as young and silly as oneself - allowing, of course, for their age. From the ancient patriarchs to the American billionaire who is today funding research to make him live for ever, men have fussed about growing old.

By taking constant vitamin C, Linus Pauling survived to 93. From Dr Stuttaford's prescriptions of hormone replacement therapy to the buttery diet of our Science Editor, there are many roads to mitigating age. The topic has exercised poets from the author of Ecclesiastes, "when the grinders cease from grinding", to Shakespeare, whose sonnets are obsessed with the subject. "Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang" may be the most beautiful line in poetry. But it also describes the ageing process in man, who arranges hairs across his bald patch to pretend this is not happening to him.

As usual, sex rears its head in such elderly introspection. Therapists such as Alan Coren have their potent panaceas. King Solomon and King David led merry, merry lives, with very many concubines, and very many wives - until old age came creeping. with very many qualms. Then Solomon wrote the Proverbs, and David wrote the Psalms. For our cult of youth is not a modern curse. Someone asked Sophocles in extreme old age how he felt about sex. The first tragedian to understand women replied: 'Shut up, dear boy. I am delighted to be rid of all that, as though I had escaped from a

mad and savage master." In our own world of ageless ageing, anyone over 90 is the outpost sentry. And the young folks of 60 feel that the enemy must creep by him before he can come near their camp. Obituaries replace births and marriages as the most popular sections in newspapers for those for whom the years are slipping by, Postumus, Postumus. They gratify the competitive spirit. Those who keep their eyes looking out at the world and their minds busy stay younger than those putting on masks of cosmetic surgery. We might as well enjoy old age. It is generally better than the alternative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

of BBC selection

From Sir Paul Fox

Sir, Once again, the appointment of a new Chairman of the BBC has been made by the Prime Minister of the day (reports, January 10). As the new Charter of the BBC is about to be endorsed by Parliament, it is time to change this anachronism.

May I suggest that a committee of senior Privy Councillors should be empowered to see a list of suitable candidates and in this way ensure that the choice is not left entirely to the

government of the day.
Sir Christopher Bland has many qualities to commend him as the new Chairman of the BBC, but I think it would have been more reassuring to all licence payers had his appointment been made by a small group representing all parties,

Yours sincerely. PAUL FOX (Managing Director, BBC Television 1988-91), Garrick Club. 15 Garrick Street, WC2 January 10.

Courts-martial defects

From Mr John Mackenzie

Sir. I am the solicitor with the conduct of ex-Lance Sergeant Alexander Findlay's application to the European Court of Human Rights (report, December 19; letters, December 28, January 3). I also have the conduct of a number of other applications arising from Army and Royal Navy courts

I constantly hear the claim that the courts-martial system is fair. I also bear the contrary claim. These claims are highly subjective. The case law of the European court has laid down objective standards for a court to comply with the Convention on Human Rights. They seem entirely apposite. The British courts-martial system fails to comply with them.

The most important requirement under Article 6(1) of the convention is that a court should be seen to be wholly independent of the parties. In all three Services a court martial is an ad hoc tribunal set up by a "convening officer" who both appoints its members and is the prosecuting authority.

in a Royal Navy court martial the prosecuting arm even appoints the defence advocate, although some independent-minded defendants reject this representation and apply for legal aid for civilian representation. The application for legal aid is to the convening officer.

This fundamental objection to the system hides a multitude of further breaches, none of which are addressed by the current Armed Forces Bill. To do so the Bill would need to provide for a new structure of courts, with dedicated trained staff independent of the Services - clearly an absurdity.

The answer is simple and cheap. Most serious courts martial concern breaches of the civilian criminal code. Pass these cases to the Crown Courts and retain a system of low-level disciplinary tribunals for purely military

Yours faithfully, JOHN MACKENZIE, 90a The Broadway, Southall, Middlesex. January 4.

Home-grown produce

From Mr Ian Merton Sir. Your report of January 5. "Su-

permarkets 'damage British fruit growers'", fails to recognise Sainsbury's strenuous efforts to ensure a greater outlet for British produce in our supermarkets.

Over 500 British growers, large and small, have joined our Partnership in Produce scheme, which gives them a year-round market for their produce and helps them to extend their seasons, develop new markets and find new varieties of produce.

We sell some 40 varieties of English apples and pears during the season. the majority of soft fruits, lettuces, potatoes and tomatoes which we sell during the summer are UK-grown, and 90 per cent of our stocks of fresh produce that can be grown in this country come from the UK.

Yours faithfully, IAN MERTON (Director of Produce Buying). j. Sainsbury pic, Stamford House, Stamford Street, SEL January 5.

Elephants in trouble

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, You report (December 29) that a British medical team is to travel to the Kiev Zoo to help an elephant with toothache, a mission for which contributors have supplied £9,500. Would that the contributors could supply similar funds to support elephant researchers in Africa, who sometimes can hardly afford to fill the petrol tanks of their field vehicles. Admirable as it is to assist an individual elephant, it is still more admirable to help an entire species.

Yours faithfully, NORMAN MYERS (Consultant in Environment and Development), Green College, Oxford. January I.

Doubts on method Realities of a 'stakeholder' economy

From Mr Edgar Parnell

Sir, Peter Riddell ("Why Blair needs more time", January 8) asserts that a Blair-led government could come too soon. Surely the country cannot afford to wait for a genuine "stakeholder economy" (report, January 9) as now advocated by Blair.

Irrespective of which political party is in power, one of the greatest priori-ties has to be the elimination of adversarial relationships between the various "stakeholders" in our society and the achievement of a common purpose amongst diverse interest groups. Economic activity is not to be left

solely to investors. Businesses are needed to serve the needs of other stakeholder groups — consumers, the workforce, producers, or a specific community. Self-help will have to be given much more encouragement, especially now that both state and municipal forms of enterprise have been widely abandoned.

Irrespective of the ownership structure, all enterprises and the Government will have to achieve a much fairer balance in the allocation of benefits between the stakeholders involved.

Yours faithfully, E. PARNELL (Director), Plunkett Foundation, 23 Hanborough Business Park, Long Hanborough, Oxford. January 9.

From Mr Stephen Shaw

Sir, It may be that my memory is flawed, but was it not Margaret Thatcher who promoted the concept that all citi-zens should have a stake in the nation's wealth, be it through property or share ownership? Perhaps there are distinctions yet to

be explained, but at first sight the

"stakeholder economy" seems to be less new Labour than a repackaging of new Conservativism. Yours faithfully.

STEPHEN SHAW, Lamb Chambers, Lamb Building, Temple, EC4.

From Mr Len Webster

Sir, Despite his "whizz-kid" image, Tony Blair seems to be something of a slow learner. The essence of the Singa-pore Central Provident Fund (letters, January 5) lies firmly in the Singapore Government's commitment to the Singapore dollar. The people of that country have been able to entrust their money to a government which has been successful in maintaining its

of sterling over the past 30 years shows that neither the Tory party nor Labour has been able to produce strong, firm government. Britain's de-cline can easily be seen in its currency: in 1984, El was equal to \$\$3.40, but to-day it buys \$\$2.20; 25 years ago. El was equal to US\$2.40 but today against a weak US dollar - £I is equal to about US\$1.52.

By contrast, the disastrous decline

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

free vote on the matter.

May I remind all Members of Parliament, as they search their consciences, of the opening words of the Roman Catholic bishops' statement. released on November 17, 1995:

Rubbishing Wakefield

and the Leader of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

days last May. Millions of pounds have been in-

vested over the past three years in refurbishing the precinct of our splen-

Facial disfigurement

From Ms M. K. Lacy

Sir, I was interested to read Veronica Kish's letter (January 2) about the stereotyping of facially distigured peo-ple as villains in films such as Goldeneye and Batman Forever. Not only films but advertisements. too, show discrimination towards

those with unusual faces, an example being the current television advertisement by one drinks company. To suggest that only beautiful peo-ple can drink their product, and that

those who are not should have cosmetic surgery to transform them. is insensitive humour in the extreme. Discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, sex or disability is now

illegal. To see plain people as fair game for a giggle I, as one with a facial disfigurement, find quite unacceptable. Yours faithfully,

M. K. LACY, The Croft. High Street, Farningham, Kent. January 2.

the form of pensions that keep up with the real rate of inflation. Switching to a central provident fund taking 22 per cent or more from income merely provides that much more opportunity for government to behave incompetently.

We can have no more faith in Tony Blair than we can in the current Govemment. What Britain needs is radical change, honesty and realism, not fairy tales.

So much money has been taken

from the wage-packets of the British people and wasted that the British

Government can no longer meet its social contract, to repay that money in

Yours faithfully, LEN WEBSTER, 48 Marshall Road, Oldbury, West Midlands. January 8.

From Mr Victor Black

Sir, In your main political articles today William Rees-Mogg (Tactics aren't enough to run the country) tells us that John Major is no good and advises him to say "goodbye", and Peter Riddell ("Why Blair needs more time") tells us that Tony Blair is

not ready to govern. Could this be the beginning of a campaign to support Paddy Ash-

Yours faithfully, VICTOR BLACK, Lower Farm House, Coin Rogers, Gloucestershire. January 8.

Electorate's choice

From Mr Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North (Conservative)

Sir, The European single currency may or may not be economically bene-ficial. Its purpose, however, is politi-cal: the establishment of a single European State. Anyone who is in any doubt should ask Chancellor Kohl, whose ambition it is to do for Europe what Bismarck did for Germany.

Many commentators now discern little difference in domestic policy between Labour and Conservative. The difference is elsewhere - between those who would risk Britain's future as an assortment of client provinces of Berlin or Brussels, and those who are determined to maintain and extend

our sovereign independence. The electorate's choice of Members of Parliament at the next election will decide which historic alternative will be followed. Those interested in true democracy must see to it that the country is aware of the nature of the decision being taken and the position of each and every candidate on this supreme issue.

We firmly believe and teach that marriage is absolutely essential to the well-being of

society ... marriage signifies and requires an irrevocable and exclusive commitment

by a man and woman to a partnership of

their whole life ... the marriage covenant has been raised by Christ the Lord to the

Nothing could be clearer than that,

and one must hope that our legisla-

did cathedral - an achievement re-

cognised by an Arts Council award --

and huge sums are spent annually to

keep this showpiece clean and pleas-

Litter education programmes are a priority, but given the tight restric-

tions on council spending, we must

continue to allocate resources on a

cure rather than prevention basis.

(Leader, Wakefield Metropolitan

THIGEL WAKEFIELD,

Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

COLIN L CROXALL

District Council),

Bishop's Lodge,

Big freeze

Woodthorpe Lane,

Yours faithfully. TONY MARLOW, House of Commons. January 9.

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tors will take heed.

BRYAN THWAITES.

Winchester SO22 4NF.

Yours faithfully,

Milnthorpe.

January 10.

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No-fault divorce

Sir, The Family Law Bill — enshrining Lord Mackay's idea of no-fault divorce - reaches the Committee stage in the House of Lords tomorrow; and the Government intends that the Commons will, in due course, have a

From the Bishop of Wakefield

Sir, Claims by the Tidy Britain Group (report, January 5) that Wakefield is "the filthiest place in Britain" are quite simply rubbish.

The survey which casts such a blight on this fine northern city was, as the group has conceded, merely "a snapshot of one moment in time". We understand that it was based on a mere 15 minutes on three separate

From the Reverend E. Philip Schofield

January 8.

Sir, When I was a lad milk was delivered in churns and served from oneor two-pint measuring jugs. Then came boules and, with them, an unexpected delight. On a sharp frosty morning the frozen milk forced its way above the bottle top, could easily be eased out, and was a delicacy to be enjoyed — a forerunner of iced Iollies.

No such thing these days despite the sharp frost so many of us have experienced. Among the many preservatives in milk do the authorities now insist on the addition of antifreeze?

Yours sincerely. E. PHILIP SCHOFIELD, Lantau, 8 Priory Close. Penyffordd, Chester.

Business letters, page 27

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

To catch and cure the drink-driver

From the Chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium

Sir. You report today strong criticism of the Court of Appeal's decision to quash a prison sentence imposed on a first-time drink-driver with a high alcohol reading. However, Mr Justice Sachs's judgment contains a key sentence: "There are other perfectly appropriate ways of dealing with people who drive with excess alcohol."

One such way includes courses for drunken drivers run by the probation

service in many areas. These cover the medical, social and financial effects of drunken driving and its potential effect on accident victims and offenders' families. The aim is to help offenders to change their patterns of drinking. Combined with a probation order and disqualification, these courses have proved an effective way of dealing with many drink-drivers, includ-

ing repeat offenders and those with particularly high readings. The vast majority of offenders who attend them are not reconvicted of alcohol-related offences. Unlike prison sentences, these me thods increase public protection by helping offenders to become better and safer drivers by the time they get

their licences back. Yours faithfully, PAUL CAVADINO, Chair. Penal Affairs Consortium.

January 10. From Professor K. T. V. Grattan

169 Clapham Road, SW9.

Sir, Whilst almost everyone will welcome the greater responsibility shown by motorists over drinking and drivng, a closer inspection of the figures in your report on breath-test failures over the Christmas period (January 3) shows that when the available figures are viewed as a percentage of tests carried out, the rate varies from just over I per cent to about 8 per cent, averaging at about 4-5 per cent.

For the largest available single sample, from Scotland, the failure rate was just over 1 per cent of the 75,735 tests taken, implying a pass rate of nearly 99 per cent.

Surely such figures imply that the era of random testing has actually arrived, in spite of protestations to the contrary

Yours faithfully, K. T. V. GRATTAN, City University, School of Engineering, Northampton Square, ECI.

Amplified opera

From the General Director of English National Opera

Sir, Following letters from Dr Max Prola (December 21). Mr Richard Fisher (December 26) and Mr Ralph Emery (January 3), deploring the sound enhancement used in English National Opera's current production of La Belle Vivette at the London Coliscum, may I quote from your review of the production published on Dec-

ember 27: "The spoken dialogue, dis-

creetly amplified, is now audible . . . I assure your correspondents and our audiences that ENO does not amplify singing or recitatives. Operetta demands the lightest of touches with the spoken word, however, and in a theatre the size of the London Coliseum, with almost 2,500 seats, discreet sound enhancement is being used in La Belle Vivette only for the dialogue, as has been the case in certain productions for quite a few years.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS MARKS, General Director, English National Opera, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WCZ.

V & A funding

From Mr D. A. Callard

Sir, An entrance fee of £10 would be too much for many who might want to visit the V & A (article, Arts, January 8) but, while charging may not be a solution to its funding problems, as the Director, Alan Borg, claims, it could at least be part of the solution. When I subsisted in Paris, all muse-

ums were free on a Thursday but charged on other days. Might not some variation of this (£) entrance Thursday, £4 other weekdays, £6 weekends) be a compromise acceptable to all?

Yours sincerely, D. A. CALLARD, 136 Johnston Road. Llanishen, Cardiff. January 8.

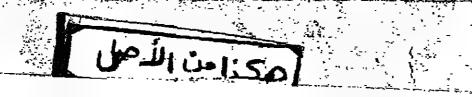
Post-turkey torture

From the Reverend Ivor E. L. Scott-Oldfield

Sir, The plight of Mrs Miller (letter, January 6), who found the Christmas presents she bought going for half-price on Boxing Day, brought back to me John Gilpin's comment on his wife that though on pleasure she was bent, she had a frugal mind".

Mrs Miller could, in future, have both the pleasure in giving, and the frugality of purchasing, presents by the simple expedient of celebrating the Epiphany rather than Christmas.

Yours faithfully, IVOR SCOTT-OLDFIELD, He Prior Bolton Street, NI. January 7.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 10: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon attended the London International Boat Show. at Earls Court Exhibition Centre.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief. The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. ater received Lieutenant Colonel Mark Jackson upon relinquishing Officer, 1st Battalion, and Lieuten-ant Colonel Patrick Mercer upon

KENSINGTON PALACE January 10: The Princess Mar-garer, Countess of Snowdon, Presi-dent, The Royal Ballet, was present this evening at a performa Manon" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as part of the Hamlyn Westminster Week.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Leeds Carers Centre, Learning House, Vicas Lane, at 11.00; will attend a fund raising luncheon at Direct Line raising function at Dreet Line
House, The Headrow, Leeds, at
12.05: and will visit Shipley College, Exhibition Road, Saltaire,
Shipley, at 2.10. Later, as Patron,
Victim Support, will attend a
meeting of Victim Support
Mersevside branch, Parish Centre,
Saltaire Buriet, Parish Centre,
Saltaire Buriet, Charge St Nicholas Parish Church, Chapel Street. Liverpool, at 5.00. and, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend a viewin of the film Chariots of Fire for the British Olympic Appeal Liverpool Town Hall at 7.00.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.am.

M François Mitterrand

A book of condolence on the death of M François Mitterrand, former onened at the French Embassy, St Knightsbridge, London, SWIX 7JT. Anyone wishing to sign is invited to do so on Thursday, January II, and Friday, January 12, from 10am to 5pm.

Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, LG, will be held in the Cathedral or Our Lady and St Philip Howard Arundel, on Friday, March 1, 1996 at 2.30pm. Seats will be reserved for official representatives to whom tickets will be sent.

Church of Scotland

The Rev William B Ross from Findochry with Portknockie to

The Rev J A Keith Angus from Braemar with Crathle The Res Thomas A Bertram from Paina Waterside The Rev W J R Hay from Buchanan with Drymen
The Rev Joseph L Leckie from
Fowlis Wester with Madderty with

The Rev Charles A Leggat from Crisend, Southwick and Kirkbean

wite. Psalm 19 · 7 (RCB)

CARET-YARD - Co.

10th to Sonta (as-Price) and
Timothy, three begutiful
daughters, Claudia.
Rosemund and Matrica.
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Malley, a brother for Harrist.
FOY - On Jamusery 46th, to Lemmund Logic word and Joseph as son. Serousd Affaith and Joseph as the Jamusery of Jamusery

to Elzabeth (side Dreke) and Paul, a beguifful daughter. Citta Cass Jacks. MiGGS - On Sth January 1996 at The Portland Hospital. to Marcia (note Stekneylendam) and Rotand. a daughter. Perdiza, a sister to Lie.

ing Late.

In Community, to Reader (one Blacker) and Japon. a sea.

Oliver Alexander King. a brother for Justice and Saintie.

Des Graties.
PARTOR - On December

11th, to Lucy and Ωανίά, α yen. Chartes Peter Henry.

REDUCK - On Japaney Sed.

10 Serah and Graham another bengiftel daughter Charlotte Louise a sider for
Charlotte Louise a sider for
East and flaments.

WAITE - To Dawn (née
Peteral and Robert a son.

James Frederick Weldom, on
New Year's Day.

WILLIAMS - On 2nd January In Liverscol, to Flackel (not

Baskett) and Bruce, a

pencefully at Hernby Tuesday January 9th 1996

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Il Parmigianino, painter. Parma, Italy, 1503: Alexander Nevis, West Indies, 1755; Sir Charles Hastings, physician, founder of the British Medical Association, Ludlow, 1794; Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada 1867-73 and 1878-91. Glasgow, 1815; William James, psychologist, New York, 1842; George Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India 1898-1905, Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, 1859; Harry Gordon Selfridge, founder of the London store, Ripon, Wisconsin, 1864; Alan Paton, writer. Pietermaritzburg, 1903. DEATHS: Domenico Ghirlandajo, historian, London, 1494; Cardinal Pedro González de Mendoza, prelate and statesman, Spain, 1495; Sir Hans Sloane. physician and collector. London. 1753: Louis François Roubiliac, sculptor, London, 1762: Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Venice, 1801: Friedrich von Schlegel, philosopher and historian, Dresden, 1829: Francis Scutt Key, poet, Baltimore, 1843: Georges Eugens Balinmore, Ios.; Georges Eugens Haussmann, architect who re-planned Paris, Paris, 1891; Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet, Dor-chester, 1928; Caradoc Evans, writer, Aberystwyth, 1945; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1985-63, London, 1963; Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. Prime Min-ister of India 1964-66. Tashkent. 1966: Alberto Giacometti, sculptor, Chur, Switzerland, 1966: Richmal

Crompton, author, 1969: Padraic Colum. poet, Enfield, Connecticut. Charing Cross station was opened. Insulin first used successfully in the treatment of diabetes, 1922 King Zog of Albania was de-throned, 1946.

The Open University awarded its first degrees, 1973.

Dinners

Woolmen's Company Mr Clifford S. Dennis, Master of the Woolmen's Company, pre-sented the Woolmen's Company silver medal and prize to Dr Geraldine R. Rogers, from New Zealand, for her research work in wool at Leeds University, at a dinner held last night at Painters' Hall. Lord Carter was the guest of honour and Mr John E. Townend. MP, also spoke. Among others present were:

Professor Well:

Professor C E R Maddon. Mr Edward

Stanners, the Upper Ballitt of the
Weavers' Company and the Masters

of the Clothworkers, Horners, the
Merchants of the City of Edinburgh
and the Merchant Taylors of the City
of York Companies. Foundation for Science and

Technology Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. The Hon Jonathon Porritt, Mr J.G. Speirs and Sir Crispin Tickell were

Appointments

Mr Christopher Meyer to be succession to Sir Nigel Broomfield. who will retire from the Diplomatic Service early in 1977. Mr Michael Jay to be Ambassador to France in succession to Sir Christopher Mallaby who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service in July.

Latest wills

BARKER - Peacefully on January 8th. Alan much lower mattered of Derritty. Deloved faller, manufather and great-grandfather. Service at Semand Sunter Home. Westing, on January 12th at 3 ps. Interned at Semanuy Cartesian in he arranged (Ting 01485 772266 for details). No flowers, donations it wished, he Prisons of the Earty. 43 Charry Street, London SW1.

BARRON - Jennifer Hamilton, formerly Tetl. wife of R.W. Serron and mother of Nicholas, Advist, David and Christopher Tett. on 6th Jennify.

BELL - Professor R.P.
(Ronnie) Bell. FRS, died meantally are first to the professor R.P.
(Ronnie) Bell. FRS, died meantally are first to the professor to the first to the professor.
It and di Sergery, father of Michael Houorery Fellow of Smillel College, Professor.
String University 1957-75.
Fanarial at Lawrenced Crematorium, Leeds, on Meaday 22nd January at 12 room. No first to the professor.
Donations, if desired, to Francia of the Law Chirat.
No S. Vard 77, Highquis, Kendal, Combris, Lay 4CD.
Enquiries to Win Dodgens & Son, tel '0113) 2495849.

at Shoretiam Hopital after a brief illness. Robert E (Berry) Sowmap aged 96. See love to large the see love to the see love to

Poler. Cremation at Management of the Management of 1240 pm. No flowers please. All engaries to F.A. Holland & Son. Terminus Road, Littlehampton. td: (01903)

RIGHTEN - On January 66t. Barbara. a Much loved

friend, sunt and great-anal. Greatelon at Pulsey Vale Greatelorium as Tuesday January 16th at 12 noon. No Howers, but doubtions to The

Sow Housing Society LM. 23 Bollogbrook Grove. London SW11 62N.

Mr Nicholas Peter Val Fleming, of Neulebed, Oxfordshire, the authur, journalist and farmer, son of Peter Fleming and Celia Johnson, and nephew of Ian Fleming, left estate valued at \$8,929,554 net. Other estates include that before Mr Genffrey Harry Langdon Aadrew, of Liverpool £2,085,522.

Blackpool The Centenary Spring term began on Thursday, January 4, and will end on Thursday, March 28. The Entrance Examinations will take place on Saturday, February 10, and the Scholarship Examination

Arnold School,

on Thursday. February 15. day, January 17; a Piano Recital by international celebrity and Old Arnoldian, David Wilde, at Lytham Hall on Saturday, January 27, with the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, Sir Simon Towneley, as the Guest of Honour; the Prefects' Dinner at Lancaster Casthe on Thursday, February 8; the Oxford and Cambridge Dinner in the Old Hall, Queens' College. Cambridge, on Saturday, February 17; the Junior School Football and Machanian Transporters. ball and Hockey Tournament on Saturday. March 2: the Senior Debate with Guest Speakers Michael Jack, MP, and Harold Elletson. MP, in the School Me-morial Hall on Saturday. March 9. a Sportspersons' Dinner with Guest Speakers Sebastian Coe, OBE, MP, and John Bevan (Wales and British Lions) at the Winter Gardens on Friday, March 15: the CCF Inspection by the Duke of Westminster on Friday, March 22; the Girls' Seven-a-Side Hockey the Girls' Sever-a-Side Hockey Tournament on Saturday, March 23; a School production of an Old Time Music Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 26 and 27, in the School Memorial Hall, During half-term (February 19-23) the ju-nior rugby teams will tour in Ireland, Holland and Spain. The

Ulo Girls' Hockey Team (North of England Champions) will compete in the All-England Ulo National Schools' Final on Wednesday, March 6. Miss Sally Marsden,

Jason Connery, the actor,

is 33 today

Mr Graham Allen, MP, 43; the

Mr Graham Allen, MP, 43; the Right Rev J.A. Buker, former Bishop of Salisbury, 68; Mr J. Rashleigh Belcher, thoracic sur-geon, 79; Sir Alan Bowness (life peer), 68; Sir Robin Catlord, civil servant. 73; Mr Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer, and Mr David Cecil, racehorse breeder. 53; Mr

Cecil. racehorse breeder, 53: Mr

Mr A.A. Gray, former chairman.

Welkome Foundation, 84; Mr

Brian Moore, rugby player, 34: Sir Alastair Morton, chairman, Euro-

tunnel, 58; Lord Newton, 46: Sir

Anthony Nutting, former MP, 76:

wood Scrubs, 54; Mr Bryan Rob-

son, footballer-manager, 39; Air

Chief Marshal Sir John Rogers, 68:

Mr Arthur Scargill, trade unionist.

58: Mr John Sessions, actor and comedian, 43: Air Commodore Joy

Tamblin, former director, WRAF.

70: Mr R.C. Tress. former Master.

Lord-Lieutenant

The Earl of Scarbrough has been

appointed Land-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire in succession to Mr James Hugh Neill, who will

pencetury at bone on 5th pencetury at bone on 5th panuary abed 80. Much level branch of Jon and dear father of 800 and Michael, Funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Market Street, Cambridge on Wednesday 17th January et 2.30 pm. No flowers, donesdops it desired to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

GREEN - On Janutary Sti., peacefully at home. March. Newsham (née Bozaii) before wife at the late. Waller's Sont Cross. moner of Roger, Gillian and Janutana, grandbuther of Hogh. Nichellan, James. Christopher. Thankly and Smoot. Furnaria Service at 2pm Thankly Indian. 18 Paint Parksh Church, lighthum, Kent. Flowery or 19 Paint Parksh Church, lighthum, Kent. Flowery or 19

1996. Betty Mary Inde Mayerian wife of the law Rev Donald Mavergal of Yatton Aron, an excher of Margarel. Richard and Andrew, Funeral Service St Mary's Church, Yatton, Manday January 15th at 11am. No flowers please. Denocting if denied to 3 Mary's Restonation Appeal C/o The Rector. I Well Lame.

Birkbeck College, St.

retire on March 29.

passed away on 8th January
1996 and 70 years Sady
1996 and 1996 and 1996 and
1997 in 1997 in 1997 in 1997
1130 Family of RAF.
Benevolent Fund C/o
1997 in 1997 in 1997
Service, Clock House
Cottage Benson Lane,
Crewmarth Williamptord,
(01491) 525222.

CLARKE - Course Sagataw beloved husband of Maryaret in the Downess, suddenly on January 4th at the James Poput Hospital. Corlection, Great Variances. Funcing Tuesday Japuary 16th at 10ses at 51 Paint Resum Carbolic Church. Corlection, Funcing of Security Confession. Funcing of Security Course of S

Jery & Sons, High Street. Gorieston.

John on am James y 1996 of Sheffield All enquiries to John Heath & Sons (0114) 2722222.

DATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

January. Thankspiving in the second License for all the reported and admired impacts to be amounted. No flowers but donallons aratefully received for The LES Foundation, in the first instance for the roother and being clinic project. C/o The Little Foundation, 12 Park Cruccest, London WIN 400

January. Thanksgi masal Langua for

Birthdays today

School announcements

LLB, Mr Kevin Talbot and Mr Keith Cartmell, LLB, are now members of the Governing Coun-cil. Mr Jimmy Armfield, Vice-Chairman of the Council, has been awarded an honorary lellowship the University of Central

Arnold School is a registered charity which exists for the edu-

The Arts Educational School, Tring Park

The School is celebrating its 50th Anniversary at Tring Park by way of a special reception for all former students and staff. This will be held on Thursday, February 1, 1996, at the Theatre Museum. Covent Garden. For details and tickets telephone the School on 01442 824255, by January 25. Clifton High

School, Bristol

Term started on Tuesday, January 9, with Victoria Barnard contin-uing as Head Girl. Entrance and Scholarship examinations for the Senior School will be held on Senior School will be held on Saturday, January 20, and for the Sixth Form on Tuesday. February 6. The Junior Department will stage Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoal on Murch 25 and 27.

Cuiford School

The Spring Term began vesterday. The David Anderson Memorial Recital will be by The York Waits on February 4. The Choral Society Concert on March 17 will feature works by Haydn, Handel and Monteverdi. Tom Stoppard's Rosencrantz and Guidenstern are Dead will be performed on March 20-29. Term ends on March

Commodore R.T.R. Phillips to be promoted to Rear-Admiral and to be Assistant Chief of Defence Staff

Operational Requirements (Sea Sys-tems) in succession to Rear-Admiral J.A. Trewby in May.

BRIGADIER: A P Grant Peterkin -

GRIGADIERC A P Grant Peterant -To be DMCM, 4.196: A W Lyons - To UKMILREP Brussels. 8.1-96: J J Keeling - To be Cound Arry I (UK) Armd Dir HQ & Sig Regt. 10, 196: J F Depasquale - To Med Sves (G), 9.1-96.

COLONEL: K P O'Kelly - To MOD.
3.1.96: D C Parker - To JHQ IT, 2.1.96: M P Selby - To MOD. 3.1.96: T M Fizalan Howard - To MOD. 8.1.96: T M F N Mans - To MOD. 8.1.96: M F N Mans - To MOD. 8.1.96: M F

N Mans - To MOD, 8.1.96.
LIEUTENANT COLONEL: R M
Andrews AAC - To MOD, 21.96; C D
McK Kenep R Signals - To R Sch Signs.
3.1.96; P J J Kington R Signals - To
MOD, 21.96; G R Lench R Signals - To
MOD, 21.96; G R Lench R Signals To be CO 3 (UK; Div Sig Regt. 7.1.96;
Sir Andrew Ogilty - Wedderburn B
BW - To CATC, 21.96; D E Rowlinson R Signals - To MOD, 21.96; I
Waters AGC (Prot - To MOD, 21.96; I
Waters AGC (Prot - To HQ UKSCIG),
21.96; R I Welb)-Bawen LD - To

Waters AGC (Prot - To HQ UKSCIG).
2.196: R | Webb-Bawen LD - To
MOD, 2.196: K Best GH - To MOD,
8.196: A D Harking RE - To be CO ZI
Engr Regt/T HQ Sqn. 8.196: R R
Jammes RA - To be CO IO: Regt RA
8.196: R J Knight PWRR - To be CO 5
PWRR 8.196. G Mendein R Signals To MOD, 8.196: P J Oldfield R
Signals - To be CO 30 Sig Regt, 8.196: J R W Puillinger Para - To LSP
Angola, 8.196: W R Thorne RE - To
be CO RHQ 38 Engr Regt/32 HQ
Sqn. 8.196: C W Owen Kings - To
MOD, 8.196
Returnments

BRIGADIER: D H Roberts Late REME, S.1.9+, I Cameron RMP,

COLONEL: R E Potts Late RADC, 31.1295; J O Crasse Late RAMC, 41.96; P M Lear Late RAPC, 19.196.

Air Marshal Sir John Alfrson to be

promoted Air Cruel Marshal and

to be Air Officer Commanding in-

NOLLAND - James S. Holland O.S.E. F. S.LA.D., A.R.C.A., on James The after a short them. Joven bushed of Jackle and much leved james of the Nr. James and Jane Private cremation followed by Service of Tannhoptvine at Penheur Ole Church on Wadonsky January 24th 4t 3 pm. Family flowers only pienes but domations if dealered to the A-Tata Benevolunt Fund or Friends of Pophygy Parish Church c/o R. Mediturist F/D, Vine Home, Hartfield, Sumer TN7 4AD

MONTLETT - Harbert (Bert).

Beloved bashend of Molty and frunch loved father to See and Corol Passed away from the raidet of his family on passes by the many that knew him. Family flowers only, densities to Cancer Research c/o H.C. Grinstand, Chelford St Peter.

Mulcoles - Brigadier Patrick Malcoles M B E Died reactedly on 9th January aged 84 in Natrobi, Kenya, Greekly massed by family and friends.

DR HAKING WONG

The Directors of the Main Board of The W. Hakine

Chairman and Permanent Governing Director - Dr. Haking Wong, C.B.E., LL.D. (Hon) passed away peacefully on 9th January 1996 at 7:30 am., Hong

Royal Air Force

Dean Close School

The Lent Term begins today. Mr A.J. Reid begins his second term as successor to Mr B.K. Wilson as Second Master. Mark Pihlens is Captain of Hockey and Charlotte Moger will be the Captain of Nethall. The Ninth Colin Sherrart Recital will be on January 23 and Open Day will be on February 3. The Music Scholarship Auditions will be held on February 8 and the Academic Scholarships from March 4 to 6. The Under 15 girls hockey side will take part in the British Aerospace National Final on March 7. The Old Decanian Games' Day will be on March 22. The Bishop of Gloucester will conduct Confirmation on March

10 and term ends on March 27. In the Michaelmas term, Mr Derek Howard-Orchard, the Director of United Energy plc, was the Guest of Honour at The Bollinger Club on November 27, chaired by Claudia Masterman, The Fourth Douglas Graham Lecture was given by Mr John Jennings, the Chairman of Shell Transport and Trading Company, and entitled The Oil Challenge.

Harrogate Ladies' College

Harrogate Ladies' College opened for the Spring Term on January 9. Entrance tests for September 1996 take place on January 15. Dr Margaret Hustler, presently Headmistress of \$t Michael's School, Oxted, will take up her post as Headmistress of Harrogate Ladies' College on September I. 1996. The Ski Trip to France will leave on February 9 and the History/French Study Tour to Normandy leaves on April 20. The Scottish Open Lucrosse Tour-nament is on February 24 and the

Member for Logistics from March

8 in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock.

Air Vice-Marshal G A Robertson

Air Vice-Marshal G A Kobertson
to be promoted Air Marshal and to
be Chief of Staff and Deputy
Commander-in-Chief Strike Command from March 18 in succession

to Air Marshal Shr John Allison.

Air Vice-Marshal PT Squire to be

Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff

(Programmes and Personnel) from February 9 in succession to Lieutenant General the Hon Sir

Air Commodore Jon Ford to be chief of the Air Code Organization in succession to Air Commodore Peter Steam who is retiring from

Air Commodore P J Scott, Air Commodore J H Haines and Group Captain D M Jones to be ADCs to the Queen.

Air Commodore C J Sharples to be

Honorary Physician to the Queen

Air Commodore I G Mcintyre to

be Honorary Dental Surgeon to

Appointments
AIR COMMODORE: A E Neal-HQ
18 GP, 51.96: J A F Ford - HQ UAC,
12.1.96: R V Mortis - HQ AWC,

GROUP CAPTAIN: G G Cullington -

WING CASHMANDER: A Hildage, RAF Raflor Martin, 31.90; A T Smyth - RAF Kinkes, 81.90; N McConigle - MOD, 81.90; J M Hibberd - Washington, 81.90; J M Cruickshank - HQ STC, 81.96; R M J M Cruickshank - HQ STC, 81.96; R M J

Winning - HQ LC, 8,1.9c; N R Chandler - HQ LC London, 8,1.9c; A J R Davenport - ICAOC Kalkar, 8,1.9c; J B Gibb - HQ LC London, 8,1.9c; A T

Wilkinson - HQ LC Brampton.

GROUP CAPTAIN: AJ Fairweather. 1.1 9b; M J White, 2.1.9b; C J Rowe, 11.1.9b.

WING COMMANDER: R A Stat-ley, 8.196

HQ No II Gp. 5.1.%. WING COMMANDER: A

Thomas Boyd-Carpenter

Appointments

in the Forces

All England Schools' Lacrosse Tournament is on March 5. St Michael's Hospice will bold a Cheese & Wine Evening in school on February 27. The Choir will perform Handel's Messiah at St Willrid's Church, Harrogate, at 2.30pm on March 28. Half term is from February 10-18 and term ends on March 29.

Headington School, Oxford

Term began on January 10. The Annual General Meeting of the Friends is on Friday, January 26. The Under 14 and Under 16 Netball teams as County Champions and the Under 19 as runners up will take part in the South Tournament on Saturday, January 27. Entrance Examinations for LVI will take place on Monday, February 12. There will be a Careers Evening on Tuesday, February 13. The European Theatre Company will perform lonesco's La Leçon on Monday, February 26. Lent talks will be given by Mrs Newton. Bloxham Project, Right Rev J.V. Taylor, Rev N. Brewin and Rev V. Taylor. Rev N. Brewin and Rev V. Staier. In the Lecture Series "Towards AD 2000" Dr Susan Greenfield will speak on "Exploring the Brain" on Thursday, March 7. The Boat Club will take part in the Schools Head on Friday, March 15. The Right Rev R. Harries, Bishop of Oxford, will take the School Confirmation on Sunday. March 17. The International Club Committee will produce To Kill a Mocking Bird on Thursday and Friday, March 21 and 21. The adjudicator in the House Music Competition on Tuesday, March 26, will be Peter O'Brien. Term. ends on Wednesday, March 27. The Chamber Choir will be on tour in Venice from Thursday, March 28, until Monday, April I.

Church news

The Rev Andrew Coe, Assistant Priest, St Martin w St Andrew, Birmingham: to be Priest-in-charge, St Bernard, Hamstead (Birmingham) (Burnungnam). The Rev Michael Goater, Vicar, St

Augustine's, Endcliffe, Sheffield: to be also Assistant Post Ordination Training Officer (Sheffield). The Rev Ronald Hart, Team Vicus Church of the Good Shepherd Aylesbury (Oxford): to be Rector, Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Holt St Katharine

Bosbury w Wellington Heath (Hereford): to be Priest-in-charge, Ancaster Wilsford Group

The Rev Angela Hughes, Assistant Curate, Kidderminster St. Mary and All Saints w Trimpley, Frunche, Broadwaters and Upper Arley (Worcester): to be Priest-incharge, Gilmorton w Peatling (Leicester). The Rev John Lowen, Chapiain in

Prison Service to be Priest-in-charge, Long Sutton (Lincoln). The Rev Paul Luck: to be Assistant Priest, w responsibility for Holy Cross, Inns Court (Bristol). The Rev Gillian MacKichan, NSM, Upper Kennet Team Min-istry: to be Team Vicar, Upper Kennet Team Ministry

The Rev Anne McCormick, Assistant Curate. Sis Mary and Nicolas. Spalding: to be NSM, Sis Mary and James. Grimsby (Lincoln). The Rev David McCormick, Assistant Corate. All Saints, Holbeach: to be Team Vicar, St Hugh's.

Orimsty Team Ministry (Lincoln).

The Rev Patrick Sales, Vicar,

Herne to be also Priest-in-charge.

DEATHS

The Rev Canon Derek Brown Priest-in-charge, Epworth: to be also Rural Dean of Axholme

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.E. Colchan and Mint H.M. Orest

The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Colchan, of Hillingdon, Middlesex, and Hannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Orosz, of Putney, London Mr A.S. Covell

and Miss N.F. Lervy
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs David Covell. of Chelsea, London, and Nina, daughter of the tate Colonel Keith Lervy and of Mrs Keith Lervy, of Farnham, Surrey. Mr R.P.P. Donies

and Miss S.J. Edgedale The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mrs Joanna Donlan, and Sarah, daughter of Mrs Mary Edgedale and Lieutenant Colonel William

Dr A. du Gay and Miss N.K. Cowie and Miss N.R. Cowie
The engagement is announced
between Antony, son of Mr and
Mrs P. durGay, of Ascot, Berkshire, and Nicola, elder daughter
of Dr and Mrs J. Cowie, of Horrabridge, Devon.

Mr A.A. Eaglestone and Miss CJ. Penroe The engagement is announced between Ady, second son of Mr and Mrs Keith Eaglestone, of Tirley, Gloucestershire, and Clare, second daughter of Professor and Mrs John Pearce, of Leicester.

Mr R.D. Green and Mim RAL William The engagement is announced between Roddy, son of David and Am Green, of Snintegarth, Ireby, Cumbria, and Rosalind, youngest daughter of Wyndham Williams, both of

Captain R.D.W. Hall and Miss S.J. Conning

The engagement is announced between Captain Duncan Hall, Argyli and Sutherland High lers (Princess Louise's), son of Mr and Mrs R.C. Hall, of Little Bookham, Surrey, and Sara, daughter of Mr D.G.J. Coaning and the late Mrs Gwen Coaning, of Lyddington, Wiltshire. Mr ILW.O. Head

The engagement is announced between Rollo, younger son of Mr Frank Head, of Gaucin, Spain, and of Lady Lewinton and stepson of Sir Christopher Lewinton, of Letoombe Bassett, Oxfordshire, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Howgego, of Goodnework, Kent.

Mr S.J. Henderson and Miss A.L. Coles
The engagement is announced between Stuart John, son of Mr

and Mrs John Henderson, of Clifton, Bristol, and Alexandra Louise, voungest daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Coles, of Clifton. Mr M.P. Kelly and Miss S-A. Bradehaw

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr Patrick Kelly, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and of Mrs Ruth Kelly, of St Mawes, Cornwall, and Sally-Arme, elder daughter of Dr. John Bradshow MSE. and Mrs Bradshaw, of Glastonbury, Somerset. Mr D. Levine

and Miss S.E. Davis The engagement is announced between Daniel, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs Maurice Levine, of London and Tel Aviv. and and Mrs Norman Davis, of Mussidon, France, and London. Mr N.H.M. Price

The engagement is announced between Nicholas Henry Maurice. son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Peter Price, of Windhester, Hampshire and Celina. daughter of Mr Charles Llewellyn, of Leigh. Surrey, and Mrs Nova William-son, of Strafford St Andrew.

DEATES

C.S.E., former Anchemit Director General of The British Council, at home on Jacustry 8th, 1996. Beloved beauting of the British Council, at home on Jacustry 8th, 1996. Beloved beauting of the het Paris, before of Cornya, brother of Jones, grantfelling of Petrick and Sophie and Extra time of Jacustry Results Governous Results and Anchemical Cornel Congressive Florance Law Twending Control of The Sophies and The Sophies an

THOMBOR - George on January 4th 1996. Died pencenthy at home after a remarkable and Full life. President of Chebes Footban Chib. Dearty loved by his family. He will be sadly missed by them and his many friends. Funeral Monday 18th January 4 pm at Randalis Park Cresastorium. Lastherband. Surrey. Flowers by 2 pm to Chibys. 48 Europove Road.

Mr T.D. Lyons and Miss A. Duffy

The engagement is announced between Timothy David, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Lyons, of Linton, West Yorkshire, and Annette, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Duffy, of East Kilbride, Strathclyde. Mr R.H. McArthur and Miss L.J. Weir

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The engagement is announced between Robin, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Hugh McArthur, of Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire, and Lucinda, daughter of the late Mr David Weir and of Mrs Noreene Weir, of East Horsley.

Mr R.J. Merriweather and Miss R.C. Assi The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs J.D. Merriweather, of Col-chester, and Raffaella, eldest daughter of Signor and Signora G. Assi, of Milan, Italy.

Mr A.J. Ord and Miss S.C. Garland The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Ord, of Nunthorpe, Yorkshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Garland, of

and Miss J.L. Haryott The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Perry, of Bidborough, Kent, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Haryott, of Paley Street, Berkshire.

Mr R.A.J. Rothery and Miss L.J. Warrington the engagement is amounced between Andrew, elder son of Brigadier and Mrs R.C. Rothery, of Gifford, East Lothian, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Warrington, of Shepley, West

Mr T.G.M. Streftel and Miss J.M. Holburd The engagement is announced between Tim. son of Mrs Dawn

Santini and the late Mr Moreno Santini, of Chelsea, London, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Hulburd, of Wingham, Kent. Mr N.R. Siluw and Miss A.C. Jones The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr

and Mrs Gordon Shaw, of Reigate, Surrey, and Alison, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Jones, of Cardiff, South **Marriages**

Mr J.R. Godwin-Austen and Miss M.C.D. Cavender

The marriage took place on Sat-urday at St Andrews, Dowlish Wake, Somerset, of Mr Jonathan Godwin-Austen, to Miss Mary officiated, assisted by the

officiated, assisted by the Rev.
Keith Turner.

The bride, who was given in
marriage by her father, was attended by Richard Beaumont,
Alicia Pratorini, Georgia and
Louis Gore-Langton and Pru
Waterstone, Major Charles CraigHarvey was best man.

The reception was held at the
home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in the

Mr A.R. Korn and Miss M.J. Blakeley

The marriage took place quietly in Norwich, on December 22, between Adam Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan J. Korn, and Melissa Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Blakeley. Mr.C.D. Riches The marriage took place on January 2, in Wilmington, USA, between Mr David Riches and Miss

Vikki Fliseli, of Putney. Legal appointment Mrs Mary Ina May has been appointed as a full-time chairman of Social Security, Medical, Disability, and Child Support Appeal Tribunals.

THANKSGIVING

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BMD'S: 0171 782 7272 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000 The law of the Lord is period.

DEATHS FRASER - On Jammery Ste, peacefully after a short impress. Kaphens, videous of Cordens, Much have being a jume and Ammers Papers of James and Ammers Crestmenton. Addershot, at 4.30 pm on himself impacts 15th. NELM - On 9th Jiscomy 1996 pescentiaty at QEE Houghts. Welveyn Carden City, limbel, water at the Rose Heise, GRE, KCHC, beloved mether of Donald and leater and of Certain Aces, Pescent at St. Peter's Chartch, Tevita bid Schartch, 20th Jiscomy at 12 pops. Family flowers only please. Emplation to Ceo. W. Blow & Sons List., Church Street, Welveyn, Herbs., led (01439) 714696.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Officiation – Julian (Peter) died pencetally efter a short fluess en Monday Jensery Stin aged 59. Femeral at Westing Cream sentant ses Menday 15th Jensery et 11em. Family Revers only. Domainous if desired to EVIE.

JAKUNESKA - Wands Marks

seed 71 on January 7th at

seed 71 on January 7th

1996 at The Royal Free
Housing Start a short we
panded Broan. Desiry fored
wife of Dr Boman Jakubad,
mother of Jack, mother-baller of Jack, mother of Jack, mother-baller of Robins, House, Nath, on Monday

15th January 3th poscerbilly in

Mouse-Carto and 95, Mach

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Mary 1996 in

on January 9th peacefully in Monte-Carlo and 95. Much loved Bushand of Nicky and father of Robin and grandfather of Lucinda, Soptie and Cath. A struck family funeral will be held.

LATTD - Ermins, seacability at the Fahrmile Marie Carie Centre, Edinburgh, on January 90. 1996. Ermins, Latto, between wife of the late Williams, much bread mother of Marqueret, Jean and Sandy and a dear grandmother and great-prandmother of the Rendy, Service at Markonbull Crematorium Pentland Chapel. Edinburgh, on Monday, January 1661, at 2.15 pm to which all friends are invited.

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Medici.VIII - On Jenuary 8th peacefully at Ashtead Hospital Ricky, wife of the labe has Private Councillon. The last for Donations to be held inter. Donations to British Heart Foundation and

MRLLS - On January 7th at Sarton on Sea Group Captain Factor in the D.S.C. aged Se formerty of Victoria Service at Southampton Cremstorium (Zeat Chapel) on Thursdey January 18th at 12 noon. Flowers or donations, if desired, to RAF, Benswokst Fund c/o Jan Steet & Sen. Chesti House, Winchester, SQ25 OHU.

Died suddenly on Srd
January in his beloved
Habita Described of
January and Folly
Habita Described of
January is a very special
man". Service at City of
London Crematorium on
Saturday 13th January at
Zon Dosstions. If destruct, to
the National Heart and Lang
January Deve Hause Green.
Sw/S.

James P. Commits and James P. Commits P. Commits P. Commits and James P. Commits P. Commi NESSITY - Patrick Evelyn DSD. TD. Peacetally on Sm. Inner 1995 Darry benefit on Sm. Inner 1995 Darry benefit of the Inner 1995 Darry benefit of the Inner 1995 Darry benefit of the Inner 1995 Darry Branch Harton Carte of Monday 18th January at 2.30 pm. No flowers Donations to Cancer Relief/King Edward VII. Politic/King Edward VII Hospital, Midharst, Barbara Agar Ward, All cressists of L.F. Listell, North Street, Midharet, (01730) 813264.

SWIFT - On January Sth.
peacefully in her steen
harpet lary has meand.
Authorise of The "Emple"
Books. Aped St. Beboved
mother and grandmether.
Funeral at King's Lyan
Cornelativities of Taskey
January 16th at 10 cm. No
Hence Standard Description. It
despet, to the R.M.LD. C/o
John Lincott. 60 Greevents.

PHA1 - Kethless Hales There is 22st boosser 1996 aged 96. Service of Resembrance in Ealthury Cathedral at 2.50 pm on Tuestay 23rd January. No Rowers but donations if Service is Managerie of Charity c/o Alan Turrer. Mps Ash. Brook, Ashird, Kest TN25 SPQ.

PHELPS - On largery 7th 1994, Sara Elizabeth (noise Bucketh, dearly loved mother of Whow and grandender of Gawain. All enquiries place to F.A. Holland & Son, Terminus Road. Littlebampion. bel: (01903) 713559.

WILSON - Stadenly on Saturday Soth December 1995 at Kings College Hospital John L. Wilson (Jack) and To years, beloved brother of George and Uncle and Great-lincle to family in Absorders and Landon. Dest Ceneral Secretary of NATIKE and John Omeral Secretary of RETA, WIZ he sorely mined by his fatally and francis, No funeral at his own request. PETCHARD - Society

WOODS - Frances Helena, loved daughter of the late Lt. Col. and Mrs. G.G. Woods of Camberley, peecrally on 6th January. Aged 84, Frineral at Woking Crematoritism at 3 pm Trumday 18th January. IN MEMORIAM -

MORGAN died 11th. Sady mine and friends. name required for \$12 Common based in Proposi-0151 716 (122) MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

DURRANT - Mrs E. Durrant and family would like to season that gamile is affine collespoes and friends who standed for the collespoes and friends who standed for the collespoes and sympathy.

McMARRIS - Ethinheth and all the McMarris - Ethinheth and all the McMarris to thank all friends and collespoes for Seaf kind densities to the Camer Research Campain in memory of Owen. In sediction the faintly were much fortified by the very large sember of Mase cards received. BIRTHDAYS - To the world you say some-ops, but to someone you are the world. Happy firthing, Votin To, R. DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS. TUITION & COUNTES

LOUISE. A TDANKGIVING SCRUCK AT THE SECOND SCRUCK WILL BE BAIR AS SCRUCK, SWITCH AT SCRUCK SCRUCK SWITCH SCRUCK SWITCH SCRUCK SWITCH SCRUCK SWITCH TICKETS FOR SALE TICKFIS FOR SALL And the state of t ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TICK I TEL CONTRACTOR GARAGE Gr populated $A(v_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{F}}}) \in \mathbb{Q}(m)$ ALL TICKETS S March of The Harmon And Long. Colonia Company of the Colonia Targer Array on

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Professor J. P. Kenyon, FBA, 17th-century historian, died in Norwich on January 6 aged 68. He was born in Sheffield on June 18, 1927.

deal on

JOHN KENYON was one of the leading English historians of the 17th century. He quickly achieved an international rep-utation and held many distinguished posts on both sides of the Atlantic. In Britain he was a university lecturer at Cam-bridge, and held chairs at the universities of Hull and St Andrews: in the United States he held a visiting professorship at Columbia University, 1959-60, and was Distinguished Professor of Early Modern British History at the University of Kansas, 1987-94.

By his early fifties Kenyon's

By his early fifties Kenyon's achievements had been recognised by an honorary degree from Sheffield, a Fellowship of the British Academy, and the invitation to give the Ford Lectures at Oxford — still for many historians the ultimate accolade of their professional

John Philipps Kenyon first Christ's College, Cambridge. distinguished historians picked and promoted by Sir John Plumb, the doyen of Christ's historians for the last 50 years. Historians of the calibre of Rupert Hall, Barry Supple, Frank Spooner, Neil McKendrick, John Burrow, Quentin Skinner, Norman Stone, Geoffrey Parker, Eric Stokes, Simon Schama, Clive Holmes, David Cannadine, the Linda Colley, Joachim

PROFESSOR J. P. KENYON



Whaley, Niall Ferguson and many others were launched on their successful careers by Plumb's patronage and sup-port at Christ's. Kenyon was one of the first of the Christ's stable to make his mark but in many ways he was an atypical

product of the Plumb school. He was less radical and less secular in his sympathies than the typical Christ's historian. More significantly, he was more of an outsider than most. Like Plumb himself, but unlike most of his proteges, Kenyon was a product of a grammar school and one of the old civic universities. He was educated at King Edward VII School, Sheffield, and then

college lecturer, director of studies, and junior proctor. And, by his early thirties, he had been offered and accepted a chair at Hull where he was to stay for the next 19 years. His rapid promotion was amply justified by his scholarly output. He made his reputation at Cambridge by

publishing in the same year both his major research mono-graph Robert Spencer Earl of Sunderland (still in many scholars eyes his best book) and his influential general study of The Stuarts. They were both published in 1958. His subsequent publica-tions consolidated his reput-

appointed to a university lec-

tureship within a year of his arrival in Cambridge and

became in quick succession a

ation but did not advance it as much as he would have liked. He published eight substantial books during the course of his career, never leaving the confines of the English 17th century except for his more general survey of British historiography in The History Men. (1983). In this book, he aimed for the wider audience he had reached as a book reviewer for

many years on The Observer. His general history reviews for The Observer allowed him to demonstrate that, for all his curmudgeonly pose, his public judgments were both elegantwritten and remarkably generous. His prose reflected his beautiful, precise calligraphy far more accurately than the bar-room bluffness he often adopted in person.

The elegant prose did not come easily to him. Those who

were taught by him will remember his waste-paper basker overflowing with drafts which had failed to meet his estacting standards. They looked all 100 perfect in his trisp italic script to deserve rejection. But rejected they were, as Kenyon restlessly and gloomily sought the apt phrase and the appropriate judgment. It seems a strange coincidence that the two literary stars at Hull University in the 1960s and 1970s - Philip Larkin and John Kenyon should each have been such fastidious wordsmiths and

such decided misanthropes. Kenyon could be a rumbus tious companion - especially in his cups — but few things seemed to give him true satisfaction or real contentment. A grim pessimism was his char-acteristic mood. He drank heavily for many years and in later life both his figure and his health suffered as a result. He overcame the effects of cancer of the bladder in his early sixties, but his weight had maxed his heart for many

When he retired from his chair at Kansas and returned to England, there were hopes that his gloom might lift. His acceptance of an honorary research fellowship at the University of East Anglia and the evident satisfaction he took in his editing of The Oxford Illustrated History of the English Civil Wars suggested that a more serene period lay ahead. Alas, his sudden death has dashed such hopes.

He leaves his widow Angela, a son, two daughters and a stepdaughter.

the Corps of Engineers, be-

came a dispatch rider, and later served notably in the

Monuments, Fine Arts & Ar-

chives Office, rescuing works

In 1946 he and Balanchine founded the Ballet Society, a

producing organisation for a subscription audience, from

which New York City Ballet

grew two years later. Within

another two years Kirstein

had negotiated a long summer

season for the company at

Covent Garden, and exchange productions with Sadler's Wells Ballet. This helped to

consolidate its reputation at

home and since then, through

all vicissitudes, the company

Kirstein all this while con-

has never looked back.

of art stolen by the Nazis.

KÁROLY GRÓSZ

Kåroly Grösz, former Prime Minister of Hungary and General Secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party, died from cancer on January 7 aged 65. He was born in 1930.

RULING Hungary briefly in the late 1980s, just before the collapse of communism, Karoly Grosz was to die in unloved obscurity. Yet there were moments at the height of his power when it looked as if he just might save Hungarian communism, and make of it something more or less accentable to the Hungarian people. instead, he witnessed its near-extinction in 1990, and the return to power without him of the more flexible of his former comrades as democratic socialists four years later. Károly Grosz was born into

minded family in Miskolc, at the heart of Hungary's heavy industrial belt. He was 14 when the Red Army arrived in 1944, and 18 when the process of turning Hungary into a one-party state was completed. The Communists needed malleable young workingclass activists. Grosz had the right age and background to make his way in a Communist Party which gradually came to dominate all initiative in Hun-

a working-class, politically-

The 1956 Revolution faced him, like all his compatriots, with a fundamental choice between communism and nationalism. The vast majority turned against the Communist Party, which disintegrated within a matter of days. Grosz stayed loyal to it, and did his best to fight the "counter-revolution" in Miskolc. But it was Soviet intervention, not the efforts of Hungary's Communists. which destroyed the country's new multi-party government, and which established in power a reconstituted Communist Party led by János Kádár.

Grosz joined the new party. He was to spend his whole career in its service, the first twenty years in a series of appointments along the bor-

Within the leadership Grosz found profound uncertainty. Communism was drifting towards the rocks. Grosz advocated tough political measures to control the situation and, at the same time, radical economic reform. Kadar, old and wary, was unwilling to back either, but in 1987 he made Grosz Prime Minister. De-spite Grosz's efforts the drift continued, until in May 1988 Kadar was driven from the office of General Secretary that he had held for 32 years. and Grosz took his place. keeping also the office of Prime Minister.

It was Grosz's chance to be his country's Gorbachev, but der, scarcely marked in the old communist system, between it came fatally late. He did his best, with demonic hard work, journalism and propaganda. a relish for hard decisions and Success in a series of positions a blunt honesty of expression. led him to the party's own ideological propaganda de-partment, with hopes of at-He learnt hard lessons quickly, and his old-fashioned com-munism yielded to new taining real power at the party's heart. But in 1979, realities. While trying to pre-serve political discipline (with perhaps seen as over-thrusta toughness that won him lew ing, he was banished to run friends) he opened the economy to a return of capitalism to the party in Borsod County, in his own part of the country. Grosz used his years in Hungary and embraced pri-

vate initiative. Borsod to build a position for himself as a party heavy-weight. The early 1980s were a But the other communist leaders wanted to move faster. They hung Grosz's past and time in which Janos Kadar's his reluctance to accept a multi-party system round his neck. In early 1989 he was mildly reformist and consumer-oriented communism was manifestly running out of steam, in intellectual circles driven to share power with his rivals and then gradually to cede it to them. When, in the there were hopes of pushing reform further, even a glimmer of hope that in time the party's monopoly of power autumn of that year, the party renamed itself the Hungarian might yield to something bet-Socialist Party it was left to ter. Grosz stood for a different Grosz and a small band of constituency: heavy industry, apparatchiks to continue to the working class, those of its stand for communism. They members who had done well were wiped out in the free out of communism. Accounts elections of March and April came back to Budapest from 1990. Borsod County of a party boss

Grosz was quietly married, and had two sons. In the flesh, he struck foreign observers as coarse and even brutal, but realistic and honest. He came up in hard times through a hard system and achieved power too late to wrestle successfully with the problems that were overwhelming the party to which he had devoted his life. There will be little affection, but some respect, for his memory.

LINCOLN KIRSTEIN

at his home city university.

in 1954, Kenyon quickly cast

himself in the role of college

sceptic and bluff Yorkshire-

man. His dismissive snift and

characteristically heavy sigh

soon became his immediately

recognisable signature tune in Christ's Senior Combination

Room. In college meetings he invariably sat himself as far

away from the college power bosses as possible and sniffed

his disapproval from the dark-

In fact, the provincial out-

sider pose was as much an act

as a reflection of reality.

Kenyon was quickly offered all the posts he could reason-

est corners of the room.

When he arrived at Christ's

Lincoln Kirstein founder and general director of New York City Ballet, died in New York on January 5 aged 88. He was born in Rochester, New York State, on May 4, 1907.

F_

A MAN of formidable intellec- tual gifts and determination, Lincoln Kirstein was active in 📑 🖆 many spheres of artistic and literary life, but his chief monument will be the founda-⇒ tion and nourishing of New *-: York City Ballet, which he saw grow from frail beginnings into one of the world's greatest dance companies. With that achievement went the facilitating of George Balanchine's career as the finest and most influential of this century's choreographers. Kirstein defined their relationship with the words: "We never had a contract, we never had a quarrel, we never had much 🗸 👫 discussion. We just got on with

what had to be done." Kirstein had a profound moral sense of the contribution that art should make to society, and saw in the disciplines of classical ballet the abhorred most modernists) a force that could give people richer and better lives. A tall, craggy man, stern in appearance and always dressed in dark suits, he looked like a successful lawyer. But there

FLATSHARE

was kindness and generosity in his nature, and his heart burned with a consuming nassion for his chosen work.

Lincoln Edward Kirstein was the son of a man who had risen from beginnings as a travelling salesman to become a partner in the leading store, Filene's. Their circumstances were comfortable, and the boy's uncertainty about a career was indulged.

His early ambition was to become a visual artist but he found himself without the skill to satisfy his own developing standards. However, at Harvard he was one of the founders of the Harvard Society for Contemporary Arts. which organised exhibitions of Picasso, Matisse, Braque and American artists including Al-Calder and exander Buckminster Fuller. Its work has been seen as the forerunner of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, which was started soon afterwards.

Kirstein and his college friends also started a literary and art quarterly, Hound & Horn, which had a good reputation but ran at a loss for seven years. Thanks to these activities he met many artists. writers and benefactors whose help later proved valuable: his older sister Mina had aiready introduced him, during a teenage visit to London, to the Bloomsbury Group.



Kirstein's enthusiasm for ballet began as much from written accounts and picture books as from his limited early experience, but he did see the Diaghilev Ballet in Europe and took some ballet classes from Fokine. Having met Romola Nijinsky, he helped her substantially in writing her biography of her husband Vaslav and getting it pub-

By 1933 Kirstein had come to the idea that America needed its own ballet company and that the best way to achieve this was to invite one of the greatest Russian ballet masters to run it. After hesitatbetween Massine and Balanchine, he chose the latter apparently because, al-

PERSONAL COLUMN

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though then less established creatively, he impressed Kirstein by his grasp of the possibilities. Kirstein was able to call on some of his friends to put up money to begin the venture.

Balanchine famously insisted that a school must be the cornerstone, and they opested the School of American Ballet at the beginning of 1934, when he and Kirstein were both still in their twenties. Before the year was out, the students were publicly performing the first version of one of Balanchine's best bailets, Serenade. But it was by no means plain sailing. During the 1930s the American Ballet had its artistic and financial ups and downs, including a tempestuous, brief, but memorable period as resident company to the Metropolitan Opera.

During this time Kirstein also ran a sister company, Ballet Caravan, specifically to foster young American choreographers. Two of the works he commissioned for it, Filling Station and Billy the Kid, both with books by Kirstein. have survived. Early in the Second World War the two companies merged briefly for a South American tour. But a hiatus followed while Balanchine had to find work elsewhere and Kirstein's US Army service took him to

Europe. He had enlisted in

ANNOUNCEMENTS

intally impossible and sout the front pages - the start of child, regards Howard.

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tinued other activities. He was a prolific author (including novels and poetry) and editor. besides producing American operas and organising exhibitions of American art. The most influential of his books were probably the polemical Blast at Ballet; Movement and Metaphor, an attempt to define the aesthetics of dance: and a lavish history of the first three decades of New York City Ballet. He also, during the 1940s, founded and ran Dance Index, a scholarly but lively magazine, and helped to introduce American audiences to Japanese music and theatre

by taking Gagaku and the

Grand Kabuki to New York.

Having made New York City Ballet possible in its beginnings, and overseen its growth and move to the palatial new State Theatre at Lincoln Centre, Kirstein finally helped hand it on to a new generation after Balanchine's death in 1983. His reward for this was six years later to be pushed ignominiously out of his post as general director of the school and company, following some disputes within the organisation - his occasional brainstorm, and perhaps a manic-depressive tendency, upset some financial supporters. However, he remained loyal to his offspring. and firmly defended Balanchine's successor. Peter Martims from some recent tendentious criticism.

Kirstein married, in 1941, Fidelma Cadmus. There were no children.

THE MACKINTOSH OF MACKINTOSH

who was wrapping himself in the national flag, was rough-

spoken, dismissive of intellec-

tuals, and somewhat anti-

in 1984 Grosz brought some

of this aura with him when he

was promoted to lead the

party's Budapest district struc-

ture. And in 1985 he took them

into the Political Committee

itself, the inner sanctum of the

party leadership.

semitic.

Luchlan Mackintosl **OBE.** The Mackintosh of Markintosh died of myeloma on December 26 aged 67. He was born on June 27, 1928.

A LOYAL and respected reprearistocracy, Lachlan Mackintosh was the 30th chief of his dan. His declared aims were to serve the Highlands, his Oueen and his country, and these he was to achieve with distinction. As The Mackintosh of Mackintosh he dedicated nearly forty years of his life to the wellbeing of his ancestral domain, his clan members and his tenants.

He developed a clan museum in the grounds of May Hall, his lochside ancestral seat set among the mountains and moorlands of invernessshire, and there he hosted an annual clan gathering and Highland sports fair, which became a prototype for many later such events. Mackintosh also travelled extensively, together with his wife, on behalf of the clan and his stalwart sense of duty and strong opinions - "be wrong with conviction" was his phrase combined with a humour and modesty to earn him the esteem of the far-flung members of his clan.

Lachlan Ronald Duncan Mackintosh was not, however, brought up in Scotland. He was born in Camberley, the son of a vice-admiral, and went to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, from where he went to sea, serving in 1951 as flag lieutenant to the First Sea Lord and, later, in the Royal Yacht Britannia. However, with the sudder death of his father in 1957,

Mackintosh inherited the title

to Lord Lieutenant. Mackintosh was also vice-

president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist assoc-



of Chief of the Clan and six years later, retiring from naval service, he moved to Moy Hall where he became immedlately involved in local life. He participated wholeheartedly in local government and in 1971 was appointed Vice-Lord Lieutenant for Lochaber. Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey. In 1985 he was promoted

iation, 1969-71, and from 1990 to the time of his last illness he was chairman of roads and transport in the Highland Regional Council, a job which was no sinecure — the area of land involved, although relatively sparsely populated, covers roughly one third of Scotland. He was appointed OBE in 1972.

Lachlan Mackintosh is survived by his wife Celia, whom he married in 1962, and by a son and two daughters.

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AUSTRALIA: PRIDE AND SHAME If the Continent of Australia be in one

respect the glory, it is in another the reproach of England, considered as a great colonizing country. This remark will be abundantly made out if we consider, first, the colonies which we have planted, and, secondly, the discoveries we have made. On the extreme South-West of the continent we possess the colony of Western Australia, or, as it used to be called, Swan River. This settlement, remote in its geographical situation, and not very much favoured in the quality of its soil or the indentations of its coast, is the only colony to which transportation is still continued. Passing over a long and dreary interval of coast without harbours or rivers, we next come to the colony of South Australia, and its capital. Adelaide - a territory circumscribed in extent and lying rather far aside from the great highway of ocean commerce but possessing a fertile soil. vast mineral resources, and a Govern-

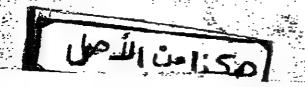
ON THIS DAY

January 11, 1861 经身份的

The British Government was here criticised for not opening up the interior of Australia, leaving it to individuals; but first the leader writer thought a brief geography lesson was needed.

ment apparently better administered and more stable than that of any other member of the group. Adjoining South Australia to the East, and occupying the extreme South-Eastern corner of the continent, lies the colony of Port Phillip, or Victoria, the best known of the Australian colonies—a land of pasture and of gold, of rich soil, many harbours, and containing the loftiest range of mountains in Australia. North of this lies the colony of New South Wales and its capital, Sydney, the most ancient of

our settlements, though somewhat overshadowed as a gold and wool producing country by the unprecedented progress of Victoria. North of this again is the newly founded colony of Moreton Bay, or Queen's Land. When we consider that these settlements have all been planted by this country since the conclusion of the War of Independence of America, and all but one since the year 1828, we cannot but feel admiration and astonishment at so extraordinary an instance of vigour and success. It is the work, not of our Government, but of our people, and is only another instance of the singular aptitude of the English race for combined enterprise, and the facility with which they overcome the most appalling difficulties. But if we compare the number of our settlements with our geographical knowledge of the vast continent, we shall find as much reason for humiliation as we have just shown for pride; for the knowledge which we possess of Australia is, when compared with our settlement, ludicrously small . . .



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NEWS

Israelis hail Husain peace trip

King Husain of Jordan became the first Arab monarch to visit Tel Aviv and he won the hearts and minds of the 400,000 inhabitants of this most Jewish of cities in a way which boosted the chances of peace in the Middle East.

In the most dramatic personal gesture since President Sadat of Egypt arrived in Jerusalem in 1977 and engineered the beginning of the end of old hostilities, the Jordanian leader defied the enemies of peace from the extremes of both the Jewish and Islamic communities...

Terry Venables to quit as coach

■ Terry Venables is to stand down as England football coach after the European championships this summer to concentrate on a series of court cases arising from his dispute with Alan Sugar and allegations about his business dealings......Page 1

Back from the dead

Daphne Banks, the woman viho came back from the dead, said that she felt fine as the ductor who had declared her dead apologisco . . Page I

Balloon let-down

An American balloonist's attempt to circumnavigate the globe came to grief off Canada. Steve Fossett, a Chicago banker, managed to land his one-man balloon. Solo Challenger, on a field in New Brunswick after taking off from South Dakota ...

Blair on attack

Tony Blair claimed that John Major had abandoned one-nation politics with his rejection of the Labour leader's vision of a stakeholder society....

Hell not so bad

Traditional images of hellfire and damnation are wrong, says a Church of England report which criticises some past teachings for trying to frighten people too

Air 'fight' escape

Four crewmen ejected to safety when two RAF jet fighters collided while apparently engaged in mock combat at about 800ft over Lincolnshire. ...Page 5

Bypass battle

Work on the Newbury bypass was abandoned for the second day running when protesters

Situations vacant

More than 130 high-street recruiting offices are to close after the Ministry of Defence decided to advertise Armed Forces vacancies in jobcentres.....Page 8

Health drive

A drive to reduce unnecessary Caesarean sections was launched by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, as part of a campaign to save 11 billion being wasted on ineffective treatments Page 9

Tory debacle

Conservative Central Office was blamed for the debacle over a black parliamentary candidate who will be deselected for lying ... Page 10

Hostage crisis

Russian troops ringed a convoy of buses carrying Chechen gunmen and dozens of captives on the border with Chechenia on the second day of a hostage seizure that has thrown the Government into crisis.

Rocket seized

The rocket launcher thought to have been used in Tuesday's deadly attack on a crowded Sarajevo tram was confiscated by French Nato forces Page 12

Budget talks

Republican leaders were exploring rudical strategies to advance their "revolution" after the breakdown of budget negotiations with overcame guards Page 6 President Clinton Page 13

Top of the form pub prize

■ The headmaster of a comprehensive school was criticised for offering pub luncheon vouchers as form prizes. Bob Salisbury of the Garibaldi School, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, said: "What happens when a pupil does well? His parents take him or her out for a meal. Now the pupils can take their parents or grandparents and get fit on the bill



King Husain of Jordan is greeted by Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, on the Arab monarch's historic visit to Tel Aviv. Page 1

SPORT

Gas: TransCo, which operates Britain's pipeline network, is calling on the Government to delay the start of competition to supply households because the computer systemPage 23

Sevoy: The Wontner family, the controlling shareholder, is supporting its old enemy Forte as it fights Granada's takeoverPage 23

Bonuses: Despite the strong performance of the stockmarket last year, Norwich Union froze its annual bonuses on life and pensions business while Commercial Union and Scottish Life cut annual bonus-Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 29.1 to

3671.2. Sterling fell to 83.1 after falls from \$1.5457 to \$1.5452 and DM2.2304 to DM2.2225 Page 26

Athletics: Diane Modahl, the British 800 metres runner, will be able to run competitively while the authorities decide whether or not to exonerate her of alleged drug-

improved display in the second one-day international against South Africa in the calmer venue of Bloemfontein_ Rugby union: A nationwide survey of English clubs by Michael Lord, a

Cricket: England will hope for an

Conservative MP, has found a widespread desire to retain amateurism in the game......Page 41 Squash: The national championships, which start in Birmingham today, give Del Harris, the British

No l, a further chance to continue

his resurgent form Page 42

New films: Paul Verhoeven's fleshfilled new film, Showgirls, proves to be a tacky and pointless folly, but Carl Franklin's Devil in a Blue Dress is an evocative thriller set in 1940s Los Angeles Page 31 Young at art: Children learn about the elegant craft of bookbinding,

from the experts at the British

Important year: Sir Philip Dowson has just been re-elected to his third year as president of the Royal Academy, a year when, he says, the future of the institution will be cast through expansion and development ...

Street emerte: A refreshingly funny slice of seedy London life can be found in Simon Bent's comedy, Goldhawk Road ..

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

POP ON FRIDAY

Meet the Mavericks, a

■ STUDENT MOAN

The chief executive of

David Sinclair and

Caitlin Moran

Julian Barnes Pages 34, 35 FEMT CONTRACT

about its effects ...

Don't go to jail: The Foreign Office is planning to make videos listing what should and should not be done to avoid trouble......Page 36

ed to be best at everything and he

kept everything. Dereck Granger is

sifting the mementos ____ Page 17

Ageless ageing, day 4: Do men get

the menopause?; treating the fe-

male menopause; curing baldness;

how water improves energy;

breathing exercises Pages 14, 15

Non-fet fet: Olestra, because not

digested, makes the calorie count

plummet. But there are worries

Fact and fiction: The life of Lincoln,

a rough-hewn man; how Lloyd

George won the war, a history of

Kew Gardens; the short stories of

band on a good run, plus Mitterrand was a large man with literary gifts that enabled him to obscure his meanings and his goals. But history will eventually unlock the secrets he so adeptly tried to keep - Washington Post If American liberalism want a Waterloo over the budget, then let's get on with the campaign for the House, the Senate and the Presidency

Preview: The Stewarts want to allow their son to die, but the law is against them. Inside Story (BBC). lopm). Review: Matthew Bond on a Singapore documentary that may not please Tony Blair Page 43

Red water

John Major now believes that he has the enemy's measure. His central line of attack will be that, however far the policy detail of Mr Blair's "stakeholder" society is from being fleshed out, the idea itself is enough to open "fresh

All Greek

Mr Papandreou was said yesterday to have taken a few steps in his private ward. But his wife Mimi, with virtually sole access to the stricken politician, used this fact to insist that he had no intention of stepping down

WILLIAM REES-MOGG The City of London is a great institution, but it has one great weakness of character. It is always looking for easy money Page 18

THOMAS DE WAAL The Russians are as stuck in Chechenia as they were 15 years ago in Afghanistan, with the unpleasant difference that it is supposed to be part of their territory Page 18 PETER RIDDELL

Lady Thatcher is now more of a symbol than a force. She will be applauded tonight for what she did rather than what she can do, for touching the hearts of her followers rather than as a potential leader of a crusade...

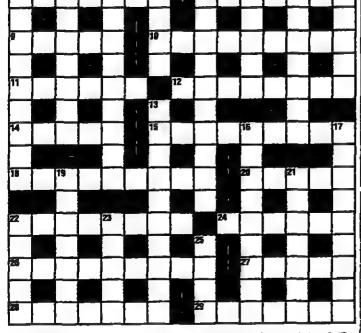
JOHN BRYANT

The world of sporting cups is a strange, glittering and, all too of-ten, ghastly one. I blame the Victorians. A century ago they were making desperate efforts to ringfence their concept of the gentleman amateur...

Károly Grosz, Prime Minister of Hungary: Lincoln Kirstein. founder of New York City Ballet; The Mackintosh of Mackintosh,

Stakeholder economy; BBC head; drink-driving; no-fault divorce; - Wall Street Journal | courts-martial defects

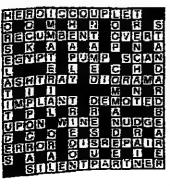
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,061



ACROSS Awkward

- steps repotiated in preparation for deal (7). 5 Important Conservative putting 9 Town-based university's right to
- be exclusive (5). 10 Amount of money returned by bloke snatching it — capital fellow! (4).
- 11 Stunned maiden in a daze. wandering about (6) 12 Cured Soldiers weren't (8).
- 14 By no means quick, runs into one trap (5). 15 Family established some pop mu-sics fool (4-5).
- 18 These help to water hard round seed in spots (4-5) 20 Tree Roman turned over in the
- 22 Mixed vegetables in soil with disease, in which one's planted (8).
- 24 Oid documents showing extremes of poverty in most of capital (6). 26 Tale can spread wildly about cart, hased on brief account (9).

Solution to Puzzie No 20.060



- 27 Dope one in party is into it (5). 28 Dubious operator not entirely ruthless, having reformed (7). 29 A lot of chickens, and how they come when fried? (7). DOWN
- easily frightened? (0). 2 Offence generating pointlessly senseless anger (7).
- 3 American's to tell police of cive print left by this? (6-3).
- 4 Novel taking up latter part of afternoun on the radio? (4). 5 Madman needing two means of
- 6 Musical expert, one of many in academe (5). 7 Insignificant little bottle underlies most of drug experience (7).

containment (6-4).

- 8 Crop that is left in yard (5). 13 Shopowner favouring earlier clos-ing around ends of June and
- August (10). 16 Modern composer raising passions with a record (9). 17 Study? It's an attempt to attain
- medical discipline (9). 19 Calis out for dishevelled inker to get on board (7).
- 21 What's left of the road, perhaps? 22 Hot food found first in this part of
- Ireland (5). 23 Ring including Rheingold, finally, as part of cycle (S). 25 Messy chap upset dishes, drop-

ping one in middle [4;

Times Two Crossword, page 44 The qualifying puzzle for The Times 1996 Crossword Championship will appear on

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General: wet in most places. Rain will scread across England and Wales during the day, reaching eastern areas towards evening Central and eastern parts could have brighter spells earlier on. Winds may become

gale force in the west in exposed areas Showers will follow Rein will spread across Northern issand and Scotland during the day, reaching eastern parts after dark.
Meny eastern and central parts of Scotland will have bright spells, while in Northern Ireland a few scattered snowers may tallow the rain

Clendon, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, NW England, Central N: coudy start, some brighter spells from afternoon Wind southeast moderate, fresh at times. Max 90

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, N

Ireland: rain, scattered showers later Wind southeast Iresh or strong becoming moderate. Max 10C (50F). LE England, Borders, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: some bright spells. Ram late afternoon, Wind southeast moderate, fresh at times. Max BC

☐ Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, NW Scotland: manly cloudy, some brighter speis Ram after disk, Wind southeast mainly moderate Max SC (46F) ☐ Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: mainly cloudy, some brighter spells Rain late evening. Wind southeast moderate, fresh at times. Max 70

Shetland: cloudy, some scattered showers. Wind southeast tresh, Max 70 (457) Outlook remaining largely cloudy

with scattered showers. AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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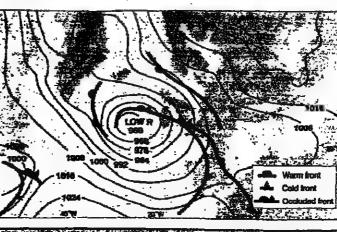
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JANET BUSH 27

Economic optimists ignore Europe at their peril



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Masterly story of Lincoln made from a piece of folly



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The magic of Paris by Eurostar for £69 return

DEL BOY GETS BAC IN LINE Sport 38-44

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 11 1996

Insurers warn of gloom ahead over bonus payments

By MARIANNE CURPLIEY

PENSIONS and life policyholders were given a warning yesterday to expect a year of disappointing returns after three major life companies cut or froze bonus rates. Despite the strong performance of the stock market last year. Norwich Union froze its annual bonuses on life and pensions policies, while Commercial Union and Scottish

Life cut bonuses on life policies.

The companies defended the move as necessary after poor growth in the early 1990s, but analysts suggested the industry in

general was concerned about competition and a fall in new business. Friends Provident also blamed a cut in bonus rates announced last week on the legacy of poor stock market performance in 1994. Rates are an important indication of how companies have fared during the year. Watson Wyatt, the actuaries, said

panies paying "over-generous" bo-muses during the 1980s and that other firms were likely to follow suit. Dick Squires, a partner specialising in insurance, said: "Payments were high in the 1980s but for the last couple of years some

cuts were the result of life com-

companies have not cut back as much as they ought to have done. In 1994 many companies were making losses but continued to pay out the same bonuses."

Rates were likely to remain relatively low, but continuing low inflation would mean they would provide a reasonable return in real terms, he added.

Richard Harvey, finance director of Norwich Union, which is to decide by the end of the year whether to end its mutual status, said the group would pay out a record £800 million this year on nearly 50,000 life and pensions

policies that were maturing, com-pared with £600 million paid to 40,000 people in 1994.

"With-profits policies are de-signed to smooth out these peaks and troughs of volatile investment markets," he said. "Low inflation will mean lower investment returns in the 1990s when compared with the soaring figures of the Eighties, but investors will still enjoy good real returns from our well-diversi-

fied investment portfolio.*
For Norwich Union policyholders, annual bonus rates remain unchanged for unitised policies, This is 6.5 per cent or life policies

Additional bonus rates have been

improved to reward policyholders who keep to the long-term commit-ment of these plans. Annual bonus-es also remain unchanged on conventional with-profits life and pensions policies: for life, the bonus is 2.5 per cent on the sum assured plus 4.5 per cent on attaching bonus; for pensions, the rates are 25 per

cent and 5.5 per cent respectively. Commercial Union announced bonuses on the sum assured for conventional life policies had been reduced from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent and from 7.25 to 7 per cent on unitised with-profits life policies. Conventional pension bonus rates have been cut from 4.8 to 4 per cent, and unitised with-profits pensions

fall from 9 to 8.5 per cent.
For Scottish Life policyholders, the bonus on the sum assured for individual life policies effected after 1968 has been reduced from 2.75 to 2.5 per cent.

Terminal bonus amendments on life policies range from no change at terms of 10 years or less, a reduction at terms of 15 and 20 years, and an increase at terms of 25 years and

Christmas

store sales

fail to

impress City By SARAH BAGNALL

CHRISTMAS trading state-ments from Dixons and Next sent shockwaves through the stores sector yesterday, pushing shares lower as analysts

reined in their expectations of retailers' performances over the festive period.

Among the shares hit were

Dixons, down 14 2p to 409 2p.

Boots, down lip to 598p, and JJB, down 19p to 570p. Paul Morris, an analyst at

SBC Warburg, said: "The City had priced in a phenomenally

Next and Dixons were ex-

pected to be among the sec-

although they both turned in

good performances they failed to impress the City.

high street sales and a 17 per cent increase in mail order

sales between August and

Christmas Eve - marking the

fifth year in succession of

Dizons posted a 10 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in the

first eight weeks of the second half, which includes Christmas.

double-digit sales growth.

Gas chief warns of supply trial chaos

By Ross Tieman, industrial correspondent

THE head of TransCo, the British Gas subsidiary that operates Britain's gas pipeline network, is calling on the Government to delay the introduction of competition to supply households with gas until June because the computer system is untried and could fail.

In an interview with The Times, Harry Moulson, managing director, said it would be "fudicrous" to press ahead a trial area covering 500,000 homes on April I, as the full computer systems would have been operating for only a month. The Government would "risk chaos for a short-term benefit".

in the worst-case scenario, the system could suffer a catastrophic loss of pressure. If supplies to a city the size of Birmingham were cut, they would take six to seven months to restore, he said.

A two-month delay would cost a typical customer who chose to switch just £5 off their gas bill, Mr Moulson said. His warning came after the Director-General of Ges Sup-

ply, Clare Spottiswoode, ordered an urgent inquiry to determine whether the target date was still achievable. Tim Eggar, the Energy Min-ister, has been told that the

timetable is in danger because the Department of Trade and Industry has fallen behind schedule in drafting licences needed by companies to take part in the pilot covering Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. John Michell, head of the

DTT's oil and gas division, told businessmen that he had warned the minister of a significant risk* that the DTI would not have the licences ready by February 1, although they were originally to have been available last October.

The warning from Mr Moulson will focus attention on a series of slippages in pre parations for the first phase of

a market-opening project designed to give Britain's 18 million household gas con-sumers a choice of supplier. In 1993 TransCo lost track of

how much gas had been shipped, and how much some industrial customers had received. Mr Moulson said that his company's service last year had been "bloody awful" and that "we are improving but we still haven't cracked it.

If the Government went sheed with the trial on April 1, there were significant risks. The worst outcome would be a breakdown that left TransCo unable to maintain pressure in the pipeline. Because every appliance has to be checked after a failure of supply, reconnecting a city would take six to seven months, he said.

More likely is the risk that TransCo will be unable to confirm the accuracy of meter readings if too many customers opt to switch supplier. That could result in widespread confusion over the bills of up to 20,000 customers three or four months into the trial.

"If the first stage of domestic competition, which is a great move by the Government, is a fiasco, what does if do for 1997, 1998 and the future?". Mr Moulson asked.

TransCo has spent almost two years developing a computer system for managing gas flows and bills, which was scheduled to begin trial operation on October 1 last year. Ernst & Young, the consultant, had warned TransCo that six months was needed to bed in the system, but that it was achievable in four. Only one part of the system has begun operation. On Saturday, gas industry leaders were called to an emergency meet-ing and told that full trials of the computer will not begin until March 1; just 31 days before the pilot scheme begins.

Gas plea, page 24



Robert Shrager, finance director of Dixons, left, with John Clare, chief executive

George eases stance By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

for shares EDDIE GEORGE, Governor MORE than 48 million Forte shares were traded yesterday as speculators and institutions bet on the outcome of one of the City's and underplaying his own worries last week about wage closest-fought takeovers

(Eric Reguly writes). The volume was equivalent to about 2.5 per cent of Forte's share capital. Sev-eral so-called Rule 8 disclo-sures will reveal today Interviewed on Reuten Television, Mr George said that inflation will probably be at 2.5 per cent or below in 18 which investors have months to two years' time and said that the economy could bought I per cent or more of grow at above 3 per cent in the short-term without higher the shures.

Forte battle

fuels rush

Forte shares rose 9p to 360p and Granada 16p to 653p. Traders said the volume was triggered by investors "looking for a cheap way" into Granada, whose revised offer is valued at about £3.8 billion.

These worries were highlight-

of the Bank of England, was yesterday notably less hawk-ish on inflation, saying that he is not concerned that growth will get out of hand this year ed by yesterday's trade fig-Britain's deficit with the rest of the world widened in October to its worst level for three years, totalling £1.66 billion

> lower export growth. The biggest deterioration was in non-European Union trade, but the deficit with Europe also widened.

compared with £972 million in

September, largely because of

The Central Statistical Office said that more than half of the deterioration was because of unusually large imports of silver. Even stripping out oil and erratic items, the delicit widened in October.

Economists noted that later figures have already showed

in Germany and France. that the non-EU deficit narrowed sharply in November and said that October's figures overplayed the extent of Britain's worsening trade performance. However, the CSO

> a widening trend overall. Another sign of economic weakness came with the seventeenth consecutive monthly fall in the longer leading cyclical indicator in November, reaching its lowest

level since early 1991. ☐ The Bundesbank yesterday cut its repurchase rate by two basis points to 3.73 per cent and there was some speculation that France may today cut its key intervention rate.

Economic view, page 27 Home prices, page 24

Eurostar blow to Tunnel's future

By Jonathan Prynn, transport correspondent

EUROTUNNEL'S fight for financial survival was dealt another setback yesterday when new forecasts for the Eurostar high-speed train ser-vice revealed that growth in passenger traffic will fall disastrously below its target for the rest of the decade. Sir Alastair Morton, co-

chairman of Eurotunnel, said that the latest projections delivered by European Passenger Services, the British, French and Belgian state-owned operator of Eurostar, were "hopelessly" behind previous expectations.

The original projections for Eurostar made in 1986 fore-cast that 162 million passen-gers would use the 186mph Channel Tunnel train in its first year of operation, then expected to be 1993, this forc-

cast was later cut to 13 million and then to 6 million in 1994. In fact, last year, the first full year of Eurostar services. only 3 million passengers used the Waterloo-Paris and Brussels train. This is expected to rise to 5 million this year. Passenger traffic is forecast to reach about ten million by the turn of the century. As Eurotunnel receives 60

per cent of Eurostar's passen-ger revenue, the shortfall represents a serious loss of income for the debt-laden company at a time when it is fighting for financial survival.

A safety net built into its

contract with EPS means Eurotunnel will receive a minimum of £200 million a year. However, this represents only a fraction of what Eurotunnel hoped to be earning by

now. The safety net was only scheduled to be in place for the first few months of operation. But latest forecasts suggest it will continue to be triggered until 2000 at earliest. The railways have not delivered what their owners promised us," said Sir Alastair. The fact is, the railways have failed to get stuck into their market particularly for tourists," he added, blaming poor market-

ing and high prices.
The EPS news came as
Eurotunnel announced 1995 turnover of about £280 million. Sir Alastair said turnover this year was likely to grow at least 50 per cent to about £420 million, still less than the £500 million forecast in the October 1994 rights issue prospectus.

Pennington, page 25



He said he expected con-

sumer spending to pick up this

year, but this optimism was balanced by concern about the

extent of the economic slow-

down in Europe, particularly

Wontners to back Forte in bid battle

THE Wontner family, the con-

voy Hotel group, has come out in support of Forte, its old enemy which is fighting a takeover attempt by Granada. Granada has said it would sell Forte's 68 per cent equity stake in the Savoy if its £3.8 billion hostile offer for Forte succeeds. The Wontners fear that Granada will try to break the structure that gives them voting control in spite of having only a relatively small

trolling shareholder of the Sa-

piece of the equity.

Lord Thurso, one of the two Wontner nominees on the Savoy board, said: "It would suit the family if Forte won. It means that the family block

could not be challenged." The

Wontners support for Forte would have been unimaginable a few years ago. Forte launched a takeover bid for the Savoy in 1981. The struggle lasted until 1994, when Forte reshaped the Savoy's board and management team. Forte, if it remains indepen-

dent, said it will distribute its Savoy shares to its shareholders. The Savoy predicted that pretax profits for 1985 would increase 165 per cent to E11.4 million. The annual dividend will be doubled to £4 million, eqivalent to 14p for the A shares and 7p for the B shares. which have 20 times the voting

Pennington, page 25

TODAY

BUSINES

FT-SE 100 3671.5 Yield 3.91% F7-SE A All share 17780.01 Nikitei 20612.32

US RATE

Split roles

good Christmas and was ex-pecting to have to make a large number of profit fore-cast upgrades. When prices have gone up to these levels, companies have to deliver in spades." J Sainsbury, the superm group, yesterday annou top level management changes, including a spl the role of David Sainsb as chairman and chief executive, and the namin Dino Adriano as heir apparent to the post of cl caecutive of the UK supermarket business. T chief executive's job is to split into two separate po

> House gloom House prices in the UK the final quarter of last y despite rises in four of th country's 12 regions, according to a survey too

The average price paid w Tempus, page 26 | £61,127. Page 24

PENSIONS DIRECT said that the deficit was still on COST LESS. No sales people, no sales commission. Low management fees. Contribute what you want, when you want. No bid/offer spreads.

Merchant Investo Assurance Company Usnited, Freepost BS 6013, Bristol BS MR / MRS / MSS / MS (please circle as appropriate)

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British Gas plea for freer market

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS, which will supply household electricity when the market opens to full competition in 1998, yesterday called for new power suppliers to be largely free from accountability on service standards.

The company, which last year lost its charter mark for public service and which received a record number of complaints from its customers. said that the electricity regulator planned too many restrictions for new

suppliers. Derek Meachem, business development manager for British Gas's electricity division, told an Office of Electricity Regulation seminar in Birmingham that there was a danger of over-regulation. He questioned "whether it is necessary to report on the standards of performance. The consumer will find out the standards of service." He added: "With true competi-tion there will be little need for such regulation."

The electricity regulator plans to make new suppliers report on their standards of service such as

response to complaints and consumer satisfaction. British Gas is looking at ways to provide a combined gas and electricity package to customers and to be a key player in the 1998 market. It is anxious market share in gas supply and Mr Meachem told the meeting that it was critical for the electricity industry to drive ahead with plans



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sion plan for members. With David Higginbottom, general secretary of the URTU, in the cab are, left, John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, and Brian Wilson, Labour MP for Cunnighame North.

Trend in home prices still down despite some gains

HOUSE PRICES in the UK fell in the final quarter of last year despite rises in four of the country's 12 regions, according to a survey published today. The average price paid was E61,127. The Halifax, Britain's larg-

est lender, says that house prices fell by 0.6 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 1995, compared with a 1 per cent fall in the previous quarter. The society adds that house prices are now 1.5 per cent lower than in the final quarter of 1994.

Three of the four regions to

record modest house price gains in the fourth quarter of 1995 are still below where they were a year ago. The North.

for example, was up 0.7 per cent in the last three months of the year but down 1.7 per cent on the same period in 1994. The South West, up 0.3 per cent on the quarter, is 2 per cent down on a year ago. The notable exception is Northern Ireland where quarterly house prices rose by 4.5 per cent and 11.5 per cent over the year fuelled by the peace process.

Of the three Northern regions, house prices in Yorkshire and Humberside fell sharpest at the end of 1995, by I per cent, "continuing the latest downward trend which started in spring 1994. Over the year prices in these regions have fallen by 2.5 per cent,"

Market analysts believe that the latest quarterly regional house price survey by the Halifax indicates a healthier outlook for 1996. The Halifax is sticking to its forecast 2 per cent increase in house prices for this year with transactions up by 10 per cent. The continuing weakness of

the housing market was also highlighted yesterday with highlighted yesterday with news that the number of dwellings started in November, by the private sector and by housing associations and local authorities, fell to 11,900 from 12,400 in October. Over the past three months, 36,900 dwellings were begun, a drop of 22 per cent on the same three months a year ago.

figures for private housing starts, November saw a small rise to 10,200 from 9,700 in October, but 24 per cent down on November 1994. Private starts in the three months to November were down 16.6 per cent on the previous three months, 26.8 per cent down on a year ago, and at their lowest since the three-month period

to January 1993. Michael Saunders, UK economist with Salomon Brothers, said that housing starts are a reasonable leading indicator of economic growth as a whole because they tend to capture the impact of base rate changes before other sec-

British Energy may move into gas

By PHILLIP BASSETT

BRITISH Energy, the company set up to run the nuclear industry's most modern reactors, indicated yesterday it may be in other energy markets such as gas within two years, though it denied nuclear power is in crisis.

The company said it was ruling out no options for future development after its announcement last month that it is abandoning plans for the construction of any further

nuclear power stations.
BEn's prospectus is likely to be issued in late spring, before the Government's flotation in June or July of the advanced gas-cooled reactors and the Sizewell B pressurised water reactor, leaving the Magnox reactors in the public sector.

Giving evidence yesterday to the Commons' all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee, BEn gave a clear indication that it is likely soon to move away from a complete reliance on nuclear power as its sole means of generating

electricity for sale.

Robert Hawley, the chief executive of BEn, formed from Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, told MPs the timing of the sale meant it needed to decide its future strategy, including moving into related areas such as gas, "within one

BEn officials insisted that last month's decision to with-draw its application to build a new station at Sizewell C and to let lapse its planning con-sent for a further station at Hinkley Point C did not mean that no further nuclear stations would ever be built in Britain - though MPs viewed these statements sceptically.

In written evidence to the committee, BEn played down the impact of the move: "Nuclear power in the UK is not in crisis. Nuclear Electrics" latest nuclear plant, the Sizewell B PWR, is performing well and has a planned operating life to take it to 2035."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Classic Bloodstock action group formed

A FORMER Conservative MP is to help to form an action group for dissatisfied shareholders in two Classic Bloodstock companies, the racing investment group that has raised nearly £5 million from about 7,000 investors. Classic Watch, which will "monitor closely" the financial health of Classic Bloodstock and Classic Bloodstock II, was launched yesterday by Tom Benyon. Mr Benyon founded the Guild of Share-holders and also heads the Society of Names, an umbrella group representing a number of action groups whose members lost hundreds of millions of pounds at Lloyd's of London. Mr Benyon is to attend an extraordinary shareholders'

meeting on January 25 at Charnwood Stables. Classic Bloodstock, which has been subject to a DTI investigation and incurred an automatic £1,000 penalty from Companies House for the late filing of its accounts, spent more than £800,000 in mailing glossy brochures to investors

Kingfisher in £60m deal

KINGFISHER, the Comet to B&Q retail group, has acquired a 20 per cent stake in But, France's fourth largest electrical chain through Darty, its French subsidiary. Kingfisher is paying nearly £60 million for the holding. Under the terms of the agreement, Kingfisher has the right to acquire the remaining 80 per cent in two years time. The purchase reflects Kingfisher's strategy of building its operations into lead positions in attractive markers. But has a 5.1 per cent share of the French electricals market, compared with Darty's 12.9 per cent.

Motorola shares fall

SHARES in Motorola were battered for the second day, casting a pall on Wall Street, after the communications equipment group yesterday confirmed investors' fears about its shrinking profits. Motorola's fourth-quarter profits fell short of Wall Street expectations, sliding 16 per cent to \$432 million from \$515 million even though sales rose to \$7.3 billion from \$6.5 billion. Earnings per share dipped to 72 cents from 87 cents, below analysts' forecasts of 88 cents. Annual net earnings were \$1.78 billion, compared with \$1.56 billion. The shares fell \$4.25 to \$49.25.

Fokker orders lift off

FOKKER, the troubled Dutch aircraft manufacturer owned by Germany's Daimler-Benz industrial group, received new orders for 63 aircraft in 1995, compared with 50 in 1994, the company said. The 63 firm orders comprised 16 for the Fokker 100, 31 for the smaller Fokker 70, and 16 for turboprops. "Fokker sees the significant increase in the amount of orders it has won in 1995 as confirmation of the upswing in demand from the airline market and an endorsement that its products are in tune with the requirements of the airlines," said the company.

Gold beats \$400 level

AGGRESSIVE US fund buying lifted the gold price above the \$400 an ounce level yesterday for the first time since August 1993. Dealers report active trading, which, at best, reached \$401.75. At the afternoon fix, the price was set at \$400. In later trading, it eased to \$398.75, still \$3 higher on the day. Analysts had long expected gold to breach the \$400 level. However, dealers said that the resilience of gold's swift advance will be tested tomorrow when technical market factors associated with option trading come into play. Silver rose 6 cents to 557 cents an ounce.

Shaftesbury expands

SHAFTESBURY, the property investment group, has extended its Covent Garden estate in London with the £2.6 million purchase of eight shops with self-contained office and nodation. The treenolds, which from Monmouth and Shelton streets, are opposite those bought by the company in June. Current income from the new purchase is around £230,000 a year. Shaftesbury has now invested about £17 million in the 33 shops and restaurants that comprise the Covent Garden estate. The purchase reflects the group's strategy of focusing on retail and tourist locations.

CRH buys again

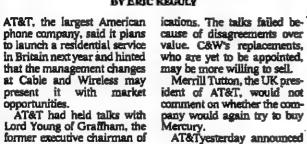
CRFI, the international building materials group based in Ireland, announced developments worth IrE38 million - in addition to a IrE30 million investment in Poland announced last October and the acquisitions in the US and Canada. announced last month, worth a total Ir£16.7 million. The latest investments comprise the IrEII.6 million acquisition of another 23 branches by CRH's Keyline builders' merchants subsidiary in Britain in six separate transactions; acquisitions totalling Ir £12.4 million in mainland Europe; and Ir £14 million spending on production facilities in the US.

AT&T plans to dial into British homes

BY ERIC REGULY

in Britain next year and hinted present it with market

AT&T had held talks with Lord Young of Graffham, the former executive chairman of C&W, and James Ross, the former chief executive, about buying C&W's 80 per cent stake in Mercury Commun-



the sponsorship of three new plays, including the Royal Shakespeare Company's upcoming Slaughter City.



Whitson: F75,000 donation

30 Jane 1995

Charities share Midland's £1m BY PATRICIA TICHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT THREE charities will share £1 money to set up a "Network" service to provide advice to young people. It estimates that successfully pitching for the \$9.000 young people will benefit as \$0.000 young people will benefit as \$0.000 young people will be \$0.00

nk's charlante domanons to a highly competitive tender. After a two-month selection in which Midland

invited 15 charities to produce aggressive pitches, the bank picked Age Concern, the National Deaf Children's Society. and Shelter. It plans to give £180,000 a year to Shelter. £100,000 a year to Age Concern, and £65,000 to Age

The charities were picked under the bank's new policy of supporting the areas of youth. the elderly and disability. The agreements with the three will make Midland the largest corporate donor to each of the

Shelter will use Midland's

-oucell will farincy i "Safe & Warm" campaign through which it hopes to improve the lives of 25,000

people.
The National Deal Children's Society will try to help 35,000 deaf children through a national mobile exhibition of technology and information. The bank's former policy was to give amounts of an

average £1,000 to a large number of charities. The move comes on the heels of the well received decision last month by Keith Whitson, chief executive, to stop sending Christmas cards to customers and contacts and to give £75,000 to charities

CONSOLIDATED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET 31 Dec 31 Dec INCOME STATEMENT 1995 1994

	DI Dec	31 DE	30 /
	1995	1994	1995
	R000	R000	R000
Kereboo			
Igcome from investments	8 860	10 488	27 053
Surplus on realisation of investments	-	626	6 075
Interest received	89	530	697
Sundry revenue		4	19
	8 949	11 648	27 838
Expenditure	1915	1 834	4 389
Administration and general	977	997	2 088
Exploration		837	2 079
laterest paid	91		222
Profit before tax	7 031	9814	23 449
Tax			
Profit after tax	7 031	9 814	23 449
Earnings per share - cents	23	32	77
Dividends - per share - cents	17	17	5.2
- absorbing - R000	5 208	5 208	15 930
~ times covered	1,4	1,9	1,5

I .	ROOD	KUUU	KUUU
Investments	167 564	149 708	166 609
Properties and ventures	135	135	135
Net Querent (liabilities)/assets	(6 217)	6 903	(7 085)
Character assess	3 443	13 176	6 436
Cash - Lunia -	-	8 812	1973
Other	3 443	4 364	5 564
Less current liabilities	9 660	6 273	13 521
Benk Jose	3 351	-	1 520
Other	6 309	6 273	12 001
1	161 482	156 746	159 659
Sheet capital	-	88 425	88 425
Reserves		68 321	
	161 482	156 746	159 659
formements			
Listed - Market value	491 398	618 302	513 205
- Excess over book value	325 610	469 920	347 872
- Book value	166 288	148 382	165 333
Unlisted - Book value	1 276	1 326	1 276
		- 7-0	
Shares in same unchanged at 30 635 20			
Net assets (as valued) per share - cents	1 687	2 138	1 745
MITTER THE THE			
Flicandies			

Dividend No. 89 of 35 cents per share, in respect of the year ended 30 June 1995, absorbing R10 722 000, was declared on 1 August 1995 and paid on 20 September 1995 to members registered at the close of business on 15 August 1995.

Profit after tax for the period under review was affected by lower investment income at a result of reduced dividend distributions by the gold missing compatible the Group is invested. A modest improvement in carriage at espected in the second half of the current formula year mainly due to an anticipated in

Angular's active.

In terms of the Listings Requirements of The Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the interim report of this company has been neviewed, but not makind, by Deloitte & Touche Their unqualified review report is available for inspection at the registered office of the company.

DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDIND

Dividend No. 90 of 17 ceans per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members regardered at the close of husings on 26 January 1996. Dividends will be electromically transferred to members' bank or building society accusants on 21 February 1996, or where this succeed of payment has not been dreidend warrants will be posted to members on 20 February 1996.

Scandard conditions relaxing to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer office and the Landon Office of the company The register of members will be closed from 27 January to 2 February 1996, inclusive.

Johan 2001

10 Јапияту 1996



On behalf of the board

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES				
DOMENO PRODUCTIONS LIMITED WARWICK FILM PRODUCTIONS LIMITED VICEROY FILMS LIMITED VICEROY FILMS LIMITED VICEROY FILMS LIMITED VICEROY FILMS LIMITED VICEROY ACT 1996 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, R W J Lump of Begins New- ton & Partners, I & 2 Raymond balldings, Cray's Inn, London, WC1R 582 was appointed Liqui- dator of the above named Compe- sion by the Members on 21st December 1996. Dated 22nd December 1996 2 W J LONG, Liquidator	DNOCLVENCY ACT 1986 TOWN & COUNTRY RATING & ESST REMEW COMMENTANTS NOTICE IS HEREBY CHYEN, SUFFICIAL TO BECCOM 98 of The Insoftwary Act 1986. Unit a Nect- lay of Crottors of the above- samed Coupany will be held at 12 John Struck, Lendon WCLN 225 on Sh February 1996 at 125 on Sh February 1996 at 180 on Sh February 19	Maintair Services Limited Registered Number: 1716678. Trading Nature of Business Services Limited, Nature of Business: Services Limited, Nature of Business: Services Limited, Nature of Business: Services Limited, Nature of Services of Administrative Receiverus: 6 January: 1995. Nature of persons appointing the Administrative Receiverus: Indianal Westminister Receiverus: Endonal Westminister and, Floriting Charges, Passes and, Floriting Charges of persons uppointed: L. A. Mann- ring AND I. P. Phillips Off BUCS-LER PHILLIPS. 84 Grave- nor St. London Will. SDF. Office or St. London Will. SDF. Office	RE: ORAHAM PULIFORD A SOLICTOR A SOLICTOR A SOLICTOR Application has been reade an Application has been reade opened that an Application has been reade opened Graham Puliford & Solicitor Solicitors being pursuant to Section 47 Solicitors ACI, 1974. The said Application will be heard by the Solicitors Desciplinary Triburnal at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 26th March 1996 at the Court Room, 50 Cercy Street, Characry Lave. London WC2 when the said Oreham Pulford should attend Fallings appearance by the said	Themes Lodge Developments Litt Registered Number: 2294548 Institute of Registered Number: 2294548 Institute of Registered Number: Some Some Some Some Some Some Some Some
In-Position Construction Limited NOTICE is FENGERY GIVEN pursuent to Section 50 of Its Insulvency Act 1966 Emit a Most-buy of the Certains of the shows of the Certains of the Section 100 of the Certain Section 100 and 101 of the show hard. Form of practy to be used at the	Cotham of Moure. Tested the Peter Cotham of Moure. Tested Cothamper. 254 Southerhood. Read. Beat. Sect. St. 1250 is custified to let an an anothernot. Practicioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge. with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may resemblely route. Debtd the 4th Japuny 1996 By order of the Board M. Motwangy. Effector	NOTICE OF S98 MEETING OF CREATORS CAROUSE: CAROU	Graham Pullord the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal may proceed in his absence to make such Orden's as the Solicitors Obscapinary Tribunal shall think fit. A copy of the application and five obtained from the Ocean to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, 227/220 The Strand, Landon WC2A 184 Observed Landon Orden of January 1996. Ceottrey Williams, Applicant Cartwrights Adem's & Black 1997 Served Certific Certific Certific Adem's & Black 1997 Served Certific	PHILIDS, 64 Granvaror Street London WIX 90F, Office Holder Nos: 6477 and 8291. TRUSTEE ACTS NOTICE is horoby given pursuan to \$37 of the THUSTEE Act, 192; the decease of
Medicing waters for industrial at the suffices of Neurism Thornton & Co. Terriruston Houses. 47 Helipwell Him, 84 Alberns, Herns, ALL 1140, the registered office of Six Company, and Independent of the Company of the Craditors of the Company will, he weakable for impection by creditors at 49 Landon Hoad, 6, Alburs, House ALL HJ between the hours of 10,00mm and 4,00mm on the 16th January 1996 and 17th Juneary 1996. My Office of the Juneary 1996, and 17th Juneary 1996. My Deathy, JULICH EDDARD.	C. R. ROBERTS OFORTH WESTI LINGTED THE INFOCUTION ACT 1990 IN ACCORDANCE ACT 1990 IN ACCORDANCE WITH Rule 4.105 of the tendevency Pales 1996 1. Richard Inn Williamson of Campbell Crossicy & Davis, 348/350 Lythum Roud, Blackpool, Lance barely give notice that on 8th January 1996 I was appointed to Buddator of K. R. Roberts Oforth Westo Limited by its swembers and creditors. Notice to be well yelves that the creditors. Notice is bereby given that the creditors of the above company, which is being votunitarity wound such are protocopy.	Company Number: 2284020. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN. PATHER IS HEREBY IN HEREBY IS HEREBY IN HEREBY IS HEREBY IN HEREBY IS HEREBY IN HEREBY IN HEREBY IS HEREBY IN HER HEREBY IN HEREBY IN HEREBY IN HER HER HEREBY IN HER	THE PRICE VENCY ACT 1988 MERIDIAN HOUSE PLC MITTEL IS HERESPY GIVEN PURSUENT TO SECTION 25(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a med- ing of creditors of the above- named contragens will be held at The Lake Hotal. 234 London Roud. It Albams. Hertvordshire on Monday 22 January 1996 at 11.00e.m. to consider the Joint Administrators' proposais. Protose to be used at the meet- ing must be lodged at Torrington House. 47 Hothowel Hill. 83	is never required to send per inculars in writing at less clears of interest to the person of person mendored in relation to the control of t
inta (iii-Chia (iii) Lintiff(2) Natice is hereby given parameter in Section 9 of The tampiverey Act 1900 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be half at Siverlock. Hotel SF to the purpose, pro- violation for the purpose, pro- line for the purpose, pro- pose, pro- line f	dur, 9th February 1996 to servi in writing Dual'r lell autotes, additives and descriptions, that services of Bohr debts or claims, each the next services of their debts or claims, each the next services of their solicitars of my let the next services of their solicitars of any let their services of their solicitars of any let their services of their solicitars of their services and their services of their	Debate: 8 January 1996. BY ORDER OF THE LIQUIDATOR J R D Statth. Liquidater. The impolyency Act The impolye	Albans, Herricotshire ALI. 14D no laker than 12.00 room on the 19th day of January 1995. The 22Th Sutject to fellows, at a receipt of creditors in Administration should be succeeded by the section is employed to the section is employed to the section is employed by the section in the section is to be due than 12.00 exceeded from the beam of the debt which he claims to be due than from the company, and the claim has been claims to be due than from the company, and the claim has been to be provisions of this room, and between the section in the section of the room of the section is the section of this provision of the problem of the section is the section of t	Arnoid Trickner & Co or Wrights Lane, Konstragot, Lane, Lane

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CREE States again

☐ Deadline nears for energy fiasco ☐ Protecting interests of cross-Channel investors ☐ Split shares past their sell-by date

THE politicians' attempts to introduce competition into gas and electricity are heading for such a disastrous debut that there must be a few faint hearts there was to be a few faint hearts there was good that the product of the product of the same was the same and the same are same as the same are same there praying they will not still be in government when it Open competition in domestic

electricity in 1998 appears no nearer, with the industry delib-erately dragging its feet because the companies can see no advan-tage in having their cosy monopolies prised opened like an oyster. After the mess made of the competitive market for large users in 1994, one can

The situation in gas is considerably worse, because the dead-line is almost here. Now TransCo, ordered to conduct a limited trial from All Fools Day, has flipped open the calendar, counted on its fingers and proved it cannot be done.

It is tempting to blame British Gas, TransCo's owner, if only because blaming British Gas is the fashionable thing these days. But it is clear the Government, for idealogical process. for ideological reasons, is forcing the newly demerged business to run before it can walk.

According to Harry Moulson at TransCo, which in the end has to make competition — and the pipeline system — work, Britain is trying to do in two years what has taken America ten. All the

The dangers of a gas leak TransCo will not be able to match the volumes pumped into the system by shippers with those billed to customers.

same, Europe's fourth largest computer system has been equipped with the world's tenth largest database containing more than 18 million meter those billed to customers. TransCo wants Ofgas to ration the pace at which customers can switch suppliers so that it can verify meter readings.

If customers are left to take their own readings, the temptation to under-read when changing to leave-cost supplier might But while TransCo is about ready to begin chasing down teething problems, the computer

trials are being held up by the Trade Department's failure to issue licences to the 40 or so ing to lower-cost supplier might prove irresistible. There will inevitably be glitches in a list companies anxious to compete to supply gas. Chris Rees, of Touche Ross, has been drafted in by Ofgas, the industry regulator, to report on whether it is still containing more than 18 million addresses. In fact, there is no particular reason why any of the first batch of gas bills that go out this autumn should be correct. possible to open up the pipelines on April I.

Ernst & Young, TransCo's advisers, warned that the new computers should be tested for a

No light at end of Eurotunnel

CI SO Eurotunnel would like a Stock Exchange inquiry into just who was playing ducks and drakes with its share price earlier this week. It could perhaps be filed that the matching court from next to the matching report from the Paris Bourse on who was rigging that market ahead of the 1994 rights issue.

Rather, it will not, because there

PENNINGTON



was a firm conclusion reached by the Bourse, and there is going to be precious little action in London either.

Eurotumel shares fell after rumours that the company was

bust, which is curious because most of us had come to that conclusion years ago. The rumours spoke of imminent
receivership, nu ously denied.
This would have required the
banks to write off large chunks of
group debt, heading towards £9
billion and rising.

Those bankers are going to have to write off much of the debt anyway as part of whatever financial package emerges. Eurotunnel's shares are like the cartoon character, running out of road and over a cliff, who remains poised in mid-air for a while until he realises his plight and plummets to the ground. The impossibility of valuing the shares on any rational basis, rather than any organised mar-ket skullduggery, more likely explains the sharp gyrations in the price once the rumour mills started to grind. Investors, who have given up on any dividends and accepted they face heavy dilution, will want to know what will happen to their perks of free travel on the tunnel after the refinancing. This is the only real return they have seen, and to some it has proved an attractive one. The board has a duty to the should be a supported to the should be a supported to the should be a supported to the should be supported to the supported t

is not to be diluted. In all this gloom, it is easy to overlook the project's achieve-ments. The tunnel has meant a huge expansion for the cross-Channel market, pre-Christmas bookings running some 30 per cent ahead despite the franc fort. Negotiations to create a new

shareholders to ensure this, too,

financial structure under which Eurotunnel can operate at a profit will be long and tortuous, with 200 banks and a healthy arbitrage market in that distressed debt to contend with. The Eurotunnel board will be aided, paradoxically, by the implied threat of receivership if they fail.

Savoyards stake their claim

WHILE the City may be holding fire, one interested party has already taken firm sides in the Granada/Forte scuffle. The Savoy Group would prefer Forte to emerge as the victor. That view is understandable, if

self-serving. Granada has said Forte's stake in the hotelier is one of the underperforming assets first out of the door if it wins and is already talking to buyers. One of these, it is accepted, is Prince al-Waleed, the Saudi saviour of Euro Disney and Canary Wharf. While the Prince might be

regarded as a relatively benign purchaser, his arrival or that of any other mega-millionaire can only mean one thing: the end of the Savoy as an independent entity. He would be required to make a formal offer for the rest; in any case, no future owner is going to want most of the share capital but a minority of the votes. The c guard at the Savoy held off Lo Forte for the best part of the decades because there were li its to what he, as head of a pub company, could push throu his shareholders. The Prince, whoever, will merely throw s ficient cash at those Swiss fun with swing shareholdings ur they sell out.

By contrast, Forte's plans it survives are to distribute t shares to its own investors p shareholder base but continui control through the B shar This is simply not on. Now is time for that archaic split-sha structure to be dismantled, or least for the board to start mov in this direction. That struct masks the true value of the mo widely held A shares, making more difficult for Forte invest to weigh the Granada of against their board's intention

Magic formula

THE Saatchi & Saatchi agen has marked the first anniversa of the split with the brothers robust fashion. "It's true, magic' left Saatchi & Saatchi January 11th 1995," a corpora brochure admits, referring to o of the bloodiest days for ma defections. "As usual, it came ba



minimum of four months to

ensure shipments of gas could be matched to the right customers. But Mr Rees has been asked to

say whether it is safe to proceed when the full system has been

Mr Moulson says it is just not worth the risk. He should know.

His business has got it wrong

The real danger is that

operational for just 31 days.

twice before.

oadmasters: Chris Thomas, left, the managing director of Mercury Airfreight Holdings, which has bought Virgin Mailing & Distribution, the wrapping and mailing division of Virgin Aviation Services, with Alan Chambers, the managing director of Virgin Aviation Services. Virgin will emerge with a 20 per cent interest in the enlarged group

United pub merger deal near

SHARES in United Brewer ies, the public house group that completed a restructuring last April, were suspended at 1½p at the company's request after it emerged that a reverse takeover is in the (writes Philip

United, which has an estate of 140 mostly tenanted pubs in London, the Home Counties and Thames Valley, said it is in advanced talks which, if successful, will lead to the acquisition of a company that owns and operates a public house estate of a similar size to its current one.

Industry experts expect United, which is capitalised at £11.1 million and is based in Buckingham, to merge with an unquoted pubs company based in a similar part of the country and with a largely tenanted estate.

Sainsbury chief's role spl to bolster grocery busines

By SARAH BAGNALL

J SAINSBURY, the supermarket group, is to split the role of chairman and chief executive and has named Dino Adriano as heir apparent to the post of chief executive of the UK supermarket business. One of the top-level man-

agement changes revealed by the company yesterday is that David Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive, is relinquishing the latter job, which is to be split into two separate posts. The first - and most important — is chief executive of the UK supermarket business, a job that ultimately will be filled by Mr Adriano, now chairman of Homebase, the group's DIY chain. The second chief executive post covers Homebase and the group's American businesses, which

include Shaw's. Mr Sainsbury said: "We have decided to have two chief

executives because the UK supermarket business is a very substantial part of the group and we need to have the chief executive totally focused on the business." The UK supermarket business accounts for about 80 per cent of group sales. Mr Adriano, 52, takes over his new post at the end of 1997. In the interim. Tom Vyner, joint managing director, will hold it with Mr Adriano as his deputy.

Analysts welcomed Adriano's appointment but were disappointed by the twoyear delay. Tony MacNeary, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "The disappoint-ment is that Vyner is staying on so long. Typically for the tive and plodding, it's a slow step in the right direction."

Philip Dorgan, an analyst at Strauss Turnbull, agreed:

"Swifter action would been preferable. Sainsbu often criticised as not rea quickly enough and th another example. On ba it is good news but it have been bener."

Mr Sainsbury will be ea tive chairman in charg strategy, with the two executives reporting direc him. The company also nounced that D Quarmby, joint managin rector, will be responsible business development. S bury's is looking inter and externally for a cand to fill the second chief e tive post.

The retailer is due to nounce a trading stateme the end of January, w analysts widely expect to cautious and reveal it is k market share. Sainsb shares fell Ip to 388p.

Dixons disappoints with 41% rise at half time

By Sarah Bagnall

DIXONS, the electrical stores group, yesterday revealed a smaller than expected rise in interim profits and a Christmas trading statement that dampened market confidence

in the retail sector. Pre-tax profits rose 41 per cent to £37.5 million in the 28 weeks to November 11. Analysts' forecasts had clustered around the £35 million to £38 million mark but in the run-up to Christmas a couple of stockbrokers had pushed up their forecasts to £44 million.

Although analysts' predic-tions for the half year proved over-optimistic, most maintained their full-year forecasts of about £135 million. Disappointment at the size of the increase in the interim dividend contributed to a 142 p fall in the share price to 4091p.

The company said sales in the first eight weeks of the second half, which include Christmas, were up 23 per cent overall and 10 per cent on a like-for-like basis. The advances were fuelled by strong sales of personal computers. Dixons said gross margins

sales from each of the group's four retail operations: Dixons, Currys, PC World and The Link, the communications

specialist. The 350 Dixons stores lifted sales by if per cent to £262 million. A returbishment programme helped lift like-for-like sales 9 per cent. Before refurbishment the stores were recording like-for-like sales declines of about 2 per cent.

Currys sales rose 15 per cent

to £464 million, while like-forlike sales advanced 10 per cent. Dixons is moving Currys to out-of-town sites. It has 199 out-of-town superstores and sees room for a total of 250. Of the 182 high street Currys stores, up to 100 will close as they fail to meet profit targets or fall into the catchment area of new superstores.

PC World sales leapt 83 per cent to £93 million and likefor-like sales rose 24 per cent. total to 21, and there are plans to open a further 30 over the next couple of years.

contribution to sales, with the 32 stores achieving turnover of E6 million. The interim dividend, due

on March 4, was lifted 14 per cent to 2.05p. Earnings were 5.9p a share, up 59 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

Mixed sales for Whitbread

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

strongly.Out-of-town pubs

and restaurants, including

WHITBREAD, the brewing and hotel group, reported yesterday that Christmas sales overall were ahead of the previous year, but that ults in the rural businesses had been disappointing.

The City interpreted the results as broadly neutral, but the share price fell 8p to 673p. Analysts are forecasting fullyear profits of about £280 million, up 2 per cent on 1995. Peter Jarvis, the chief execu-

£1.5 billion, would withdraw

their support if Mr Walker remained as chief executive.

Alan Bobroff, a director of

Brent Walker from 1985 to

resisted, the directors could be

held personally liable for

tive, said that high street and retail park businesses, which include TGI Friday, Threshers and Pizza Hut performed

Brewers Fayre and Beefeater, were adversely affected by the weather and Christmas rush. The brewery side of the business recorded a strong increase in sales. The hotel operations, which include Travel lnn and the recently

purchased Marriott chains, continued to trade well.

Whitbread's recently agreed acquisition of Forte's roadside businesses for £1.05 billion, if the Granada bid for Forte is rejected, continues Whitbread's expansion into hotels and restuarant, although rumours that it is looking to sell its brewing division have been denied.

Tempus, page 26

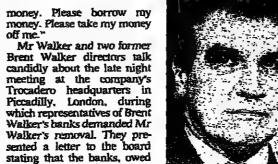
Brent Walker 'mugged'

By Jon Ashworth

BANKERS who ousted George Walker from the helm of his leisure empire nearly five years ago, behaved like "the mafia" and were guilty of a corporate mugging, a television documentary claims tonight.

Mr Walker, who claims to have lost £30 million as a result of the banks' actions, remains deeply embittered by the events of May 1991 which led to his removal as chief executive of Brent Walker.

Speaking in My Brilliant Career (BBC2, 8pm), Mr Walker claims banks were falling over themselves to lend him money during the heady days of the 1980s. He recalls: Everyone wanted to lend



Walker: bitter

many hundreds of millions of pounds. We were being mugged. It was a corporate mugging." Mr Walker's wife, Jean, adds: "It was almost like

threatened." A vote was taken at about 4.30am, and Mr Walker lost by a margin of one. He and his

wife stood up and left the room. He recalls: "I was numb. I was completely without thought. I just couldn't focus any more. It was the finish of my life. It was gone." Jean Walker adds: "George said: 'I'm dead', and I said: 'Oh, don't be so silly. One door closes, another one opens' --

and that was it." Mr Walker talks about his trial, and subsequent acquittal on charges of theft and false accounting. He reflects: "There's no doubt about it. If I had been guilty. I would have gone to prison. It would have destroyed me and my family."



from the machine in the high street... okay I confess, it's good to be with a bank I can believe in.

London catches a cold as New York freezes

have brought Wall Street almost to a standstill this week, swept through the London stock market yesterday and share prices fell sharply.

An overnight sell-off that

saw the Dow Jones industrial average tumble almost 70 points and evidence of further selling when trading resumed in New York last night sealed London's fate.

Behind the losses on Wall Street is the failure to resolve the deadlock over the US federal budget. After such a strong run of late, it was inevitable that share prices were vulnerable.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was down almost 40 points, having had to contend with a gloomy set of economic figures showing Britain's trade gap with the rest of world widening to its worst since December 1992.

In the event, the index closed above its worst, 28.8 down at 3,671.5, with brokers in London banking, perhaps forlornly, on an early rally on Wall Street. By the close a total of 777 million shares had changed hands.

It was inevitable that the battle between Granada and Forte should continue to dominate investors' attention. But there was no sign of the widely predicted dawn raid by Granada on Forte.

One company caught in the crossfire this week is Whithread, which fell a further op to 675p, for a two-day deficit of 23p. Whithread has agreed to buy Forte's roadside operations, including Travelodge, Welcome Break and Happy Eater, for £1.05 billion. The deal is dependent on Forte resisting Granada's £3.8 billion final offer.

As a result, the news that sales and profits at Whitbread during the Christmas season were in line with expectations and ahead of last year was largely ignored. Beer volumes were significantly up and the take-home trade enjoyed a strong performance.

Yesterday the Forte share price rose 9p to 360p on turnover of more than 48 million shares. Brokers began taking the view that this week's improved terms from Granada might be enough to tip the battle in its favour.

At one stage, ABN Amro ker, was said to have bid 360p

CAPEL
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Eurotunnel was back on track on holiday trade reports

purchase was made on behalf of Granada, which climbed 16p to 653p.

J Sainsbury lost an early 10p lead to finish 1p cheaper at 388p following confirmation of a series of management changes. Brokers expressed disappointment with the changes, which saw David Sainsbury holding on to both roles of chairman and chief

from the City, leaving the shares 18p down at 406p. A 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £38.9 million was in line. with most forecasts. Brokers are predicting a final outcome of between £125 million and £135 million for the full year.

Next failed to make the best of a profits upgrade by BZW and a bumper set of sales figures in the run-up to Christ-

Monument Oil & Gas made further headway, adding another I'ap to a year's high of 63% p in buoyant trading that saw more than three million shares change hands and stretching the rise during the past two days to 5p. Brokers say that a large seller has now completed his business and withdrawn.

executive. There had been hopes that Dino Adriano would be appointed chief executive. The other supermarket

chains lost ground in line with the rest of the market. Asda slipped 12p to 110p, Argyll 9p to 337p, Kwik Save 3p to 506p. and Tesco 7p to 299p.

Half-year figures from Dixons, the electrical good retailer, received a cool reception

mas, with the price falling 15p to 438p. Sales during the autumn rose 13 per cent, with sales at the Next Directory 17 per cent ahead of the previous year. BZW was impressed with Next's performance and raised its forecast for the full year by an extra £4 million to

Kingfisher plans to splash out almost £60 million on buying a 20 per cent stake in



electrical retailer. Kingfisher is buying the shares from Anfre Venturini, BUT's founder, and will speak for almost 15 per cent of the votes. Kingfisher already owns Darty, the leading French electrical retailer. Kingfisher ended lop lower at 528p.

Eurotunnel managed to claw back Tuesday's losses with a rise of 7p to 84p after revealing it had made the most of holiday traffic over the festive season. Tourist traffic increased 21 per cent to 163,305 vehicles during December, although it meant a drop in freight-carrying vehicles. Fewer trains were run because of the French public workers' strikes.

The group is expected to announce soon that 1995 sales will top £275 million. The current year shows a 50 per cent rise.

Campbell & Armstrong. the building specialist, rose 4p to 20p. Highland Electronics has topped up its holding with the purchase of a further 335,518 shares, raising its total to 2.5 million, or 17.3 per cent. City speculators are hoping the next move will be a full bid for the company.

firm market, adding 25p at 238p on news of a development agreement. The group has struck a deal with Oracle to develop reference designs for a series of network comput-

☐ GILT-EDGED: Worries over the US federal budget deadlock continue to cast a shadow over world bond markets. Even so, bonds in London underperformed compared with other European markets.

At one stage the March series of the Long Gilt threatened to test the important El10 resistance level, but later reduced its deficit to finish E9/32 down on the session at EII09/32. A total fo 62,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished a couple of ticks lower at £1023/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost a similar amount at ElO47/16. □ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street staved weak in the

wake of Tuesday's fall, though leading high-tech stocks reday the Dow Jones industrial average was 5,098.33, down

MAJOR INDIGES New York (midday): Dow Jones ______ 5098.33 (-31.60) Tokyo: Nikkei average Hong Kong: Hang Seng Amsterdanc 806 Index Sydney: Frankfurt Singapore: Brunels: CAC-40 Zurich 2725.9 (-12.8) FT-SE MIN 250 . FT-58-a 350 .. 1825.4 (-14.3) FT Fixed Interest 114.08 (+0.02 188.81 (+0.22) ... 1.5452 (-0.0005)

RP1 149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100 RPTX 149.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100 Century Inns Com de Part Fin COX INNUVANCE 113 55 Crown Products

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* House Seates !!

Unicom Intl (133)

Ransomes n/p (48)	6	
SWP Group n/p (24)	14	
Seaffeld Res n/p (65)	19	
SkyePharma n/p (4)	5	
Supeliffe Splin/p (25)	3	
Westbury n/p (150)	25	

RISES:
Eurodoller
Trinity Inti
Aintours
FALLS: Fitronic Com 398p (-42p)
Stagecoach
7elspec

Closing Prices Page 30

. 264p (-10p) . 437p (-16p)

TEMPUS

Post-prandial blues

7.7 per cent of the French

usually from excessive optimism. Only a handful of Britain's retailers have revealed figures for the Christmas period, but sentiment has changed sharply.

Yesterday's trigger was trading statements from Next and Dixons. Neither company released poor figures - both notched up strong underlying sales advances; the problem was that the results were not quite good enough. Next and Dixons are currently the darlings of the retail sector and analysts were expecting a glittering performance for both over the Christmas period.

Evidence of more modest achievements sent analysts back to their calculators to recompute their forecasts for the sector. The biggest fallers were those companies expected

THE traditional pre-Christmas cheer from to outshine their rivals. Dixons shares shed 42 per cent, with Next down 3 per cent, while their rivals. JJB Sports and Boots also lost ground. For those retailers, such as WH Smith, that are expected to show relatively lucklustre performances, the falls were less pronounced.

Reduced expectations have trimmed the sector's rating in relation to the market. A 10 per cent premium last January grew to a 30 per cent premium at the end of 1995. To sustain such outperformance, retailers needed to produce results impressive enough to justify upgrading profit forecasts. Sadly, the market is now convinced that the consumer continued to watch his purse last month and profit upgrades have been more than outnumbered by markdowns. Although part of the premium was unwound yesterday, the shares still have further to fall.

Kingfisher

IN THE short term, the best news from Kingfisher's agreement to buy 20 per cent of BUT, the French retailer, is that sales figures at Darty cannot be all that had. Speculation was mounting that the recent strike would badly hurt Kingfisher's French electrical retail chain. However, the indications are that Darty held up reasonably well and Kingfisher is prepared to pay a full price to increase its exposure to re-

tailing across the Channel. The minority stake in BUT holds out the medium-term promise of raising Darty's share of the French electricals market from 12.9 to 18 per cent with the exercise of an option after two years. The curious aspect to the deal is that BUT's main strength is in furniture,

where it is number two with

Only two years Whitbread expected to see its

NO DEPTHALES

market, a retailing sector where Kingfisher has only fringe experience via B&Q. Kingfisher is paying more than 19 times historic earnings for BUT, a discount retailer serving the French

If Kingfisher had announced the acquisition of 5 per cent of a German electrical retailer, celebrations would be in order. However, it is hoping for a French new-home buyer. The high multiple is expected to fall to retail recovery and the decision to invest in furniture suggest its French ambitions the mid-teens but it will be are larger than expected.

make cost savings by merg-

ing the two businesses



Whitbread

RUMOURS of the death of brewing at Whitbread are premature. The company's dash into the leisure business looks set to continue with, or without, Forte's roadside businesses. But Whitbread does not need to sell breweries to fund the £1 billion purchase of Happy Eaters and Little Chefs.

In fact, Whitbread's strong brewing performance over the past year encourages the view that the company is seeking to expand further its beer interests. Speculation has centred on Carlsberg-Tetley, joint owned by Allied Domecq and Carlsberg. Should Granada succeed in its bid for Forte, denying Whitbread all but the scraps of the roadside business, the company could well opt for a brewer. Even with the Forte businesses, Whitbread probably has the strength to buy a

12.5 per cent share of the brewing market slowly erode. But, in the face of competition, Whitbread has improved its share to 14 per cent and continues to increase sales while keeping a lid on costs. Whitbread shares have drifted as the initial Forte excitement wore off, providing investors an opportunity to buy one of the better shares in the sector.

Vibroplant

VIBROPLANT has struck a better bargain than expected with the sale of its American plant hire business, but Vibroplant is left with the problem of how to invest the proceeds which well exceed the market worth of the group. American Hi-Lift, which rents cherry pickers. has enjoyed a rapid recovery over the past year with profits in the first half exceeding the UK level, where margins have been competition.

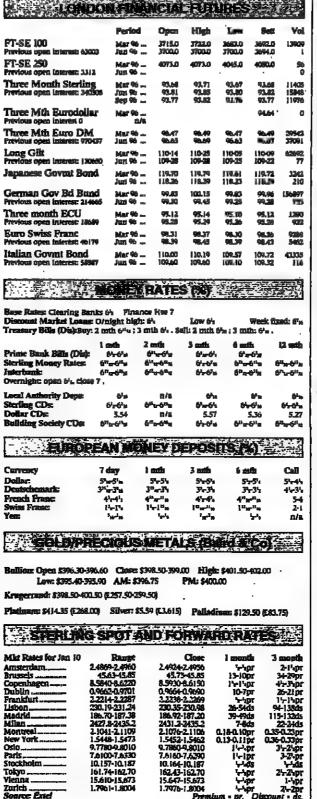
The UK construction reces- EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

sion has left plant hire companies scrambling for business and since September prices have fallen by 5 per cent. With no sign of an upturn, Vibroplant needs to increase its market share. currently a mere 2-3 per cent. Hence vesterday's deal. which should leave the plant hire group with net cash of some £15 million after tax, ample funds for the purchase

of rival businesses. Vibroplant's rating has suffered from the construction recession and at 81p, the shares are at a discount of more than 40 per cent to net asset value, including the American cash. The company is only renting 60-70 per cent of its fleet, so any new business from acquisitions should provide an immediate boost to profits. If Vibroplant spends its money well, the share discount will narrow. but it must act quickly or the cash will be a further drag on

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		٠.						

RODRING FRENCH GOALS

THE THEFT

MPs accepted the imposi

tion of a pension contribu-

tion rate which, at the time,

was significantly above that needed by their pension fund. The 9 per cent rate was

benefit to the Exchequer and

a clear case of manipulating

a pension fund at the mem

ber's expense - a technique

later refined and perfected

by others and which has

now been legislated against

think that the change pro-

posed by the independent review body will make the

PCPF one of the most gener-

ous occupational schemes

might look (as perhaps Lord

Nolan would advise) at the

accrual rate of the judges

Look at what other legisla-

tures do and you will see that Westminster MPs are

anything but profligate when it comes to defending

their interests in terms of the

accrual rate. It is much the

same story as any compari-

son between MPs' salaries

here and in other countries.

The most recent league table

on parliamentary pay shows

the UK in the relegation zone, third from the bottom.

about which a leader in The

Times on November 14, 1995

said: "In the past 30 years.

the average

real income

of Britons

has risen by

80 per cent

that of MPs is

still the same

as it was in

1964. In those

days, to go

into politics

was as attrac

tive an option for ambitious

young gradu-

the law, the

media or bus

iness. Now it

requires a pe-

culiar self-

"Pension "experts" who

direct and substantial

Sweet and sour with ice

ANALYSTS fighting their way to work today through New York's snow storms will be doing so with dread in their hearts. Bloomberg's second annual survey of the 25 worst analysts on Wall Street is now out, and senior partners will be scouring the lists for names.

last year the survey, published in Financial World, America's oldest business magazine, only listed the "worst 25" analysts, hence it was dubbed the Lemon List. This year, the 25 best analysts and 20 brokerage houses are also ranked, hence it is dubbed the Sweet and Sour list.

It is bitter sweet for telecoms equipment analyst Therese Murphy year's No I Lemon. FW reports that she is not on any list this year because she was the 26th worst performer". FW further notes that another on the 1995 Lemon List "Is no longer in equity research".

Supply-side hitch

THERE is a thoughtful touch to the invitation to today's wedding of Jenny Tora, serrior fund manager at IAI International, the US fund management side of Hill Samuel, and Nick Antill, BZW's head of oil sales/research. Bidding their friends to a champagne reception at Trinity louse, where the musically versed Jenny has arranged a tenor to sing, they write. "we have been toether for some years. At last count we had four ironing boards, four electric kettles and several toasters and feel a car boot sale might be the only solution to our over-supply situation. So please, don't buy us a wedding present. Ini, treat yourself or lo ed one or make a donation to a favourite charity. Here's hoping mone of the toasters packs up.



"We are also doubling the size of our dividend

Flood of offers

HERE'S enterprise for you. After Noah, the Islington antiques and furniture emporium, is having a sale. Everything, excep beds and a few selected items, has been marked down 10 per cent. On items over £10, shoppers can elect to toss a coin - heads secures you 15 per cent off. Tails you lose, and get only 5 per cent off.

Over-qualified

MICHELE BRADLEY, a partner specialising in commercial property at law firm Forsyte Saunders Kerman, was asked by The Lawyer magazine to recall her most embarrass ing mom-ent. "Shortly after I was made partner, attended a major lease-ne-gotiating meeting. The other sides' solicitors ushered me into the wrong room and interviewed me for a job as a trainee solicitor. I didn't get it, she

I HAVE sad news for the 566 people in Britain who are shareholders in Malaysia Mining Corporation. They had better start brushing up on their Ma-lay. After 20 years of maintaining a branch register in the UK and a listing on the London Stock Exchange, the register is closing and the listing is being terminated on January 31.

COLIN CAMPBELL



JANET BUSH

Conservatives ignore Europe at their peril

The European drive to hit Maastricht

deficit targets

threatens to

throw UK exports off course

he storm clouds are gathering over Europe, but Britain seems oblivious. Our great leaders have been practically everywhere else, in mind and body. Michael Portillo has been carrying the Euro-sceptic standard and a grudge against Emma Nicholson from the United Arab Emirates to the Philippines and Japan. Tony Blair just managed to get out of Japan in time to miss Mr Portillo and gave Singapore his vision of a stakeholder society. Michael Howard was in Delhi, defending arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Kenneth Clarke was touring Latin America, touting for privatisation bustness for Britain's merchant bankers. Michael Heseltine was the nearest any of them got to the heart of Europe, slamming Mr Blair from the Italian holiday resort of Amalfi.

John Major, meanwhile, had his head in his fish pond in Huntingdon, trying to avoid the flak flying so wantonly around the world. In splendid isolation. He dutifully put out his now monthly message, warning his party to stop in-fighting, and launched

his re-election campaign.

The message, which is going to be rammed home repeatedly this year, is that the economy is shaping up nicely, that the pain is receding and that the British consumer is going to come back with a vengeance and win the election for the Conservatives.

The economic debate in Britain is now dominated by whether the Government is right to predict that consumer spending will increase by 3.5 per cent this year and help the Treasury to meet its target for economic growth of 3 per cent. The fact that the focus is almost entirely on whether the consumer beast will finally stir reflects on how near the election now might be. The Government is relying on the notion that consumer confidence will translate into votes.

But there is scarcely any debate about what will happen this year in the other sources of economic growth. Much has been written about the involuntary build-up of stocks in Britain last year and how quickly these will be run down so that healthy growth can resume. The stocks cycle should mean a very weak end of 1995 and beginning of 1996. Investment is still uncertain, with spending on plant and machinery looking reasonably healthy, but investment in construction

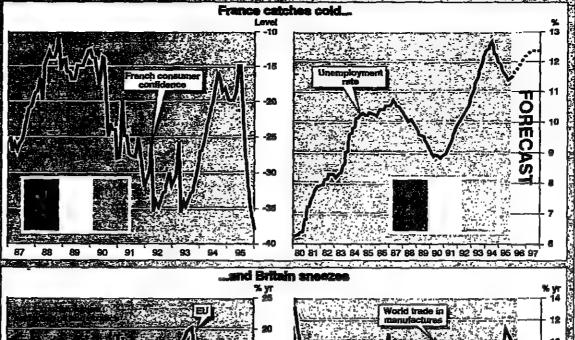
looking very weak.

But possibly the most contentious area is Britain's trade performance.

The Government is predicting growth in export volumes this year of 8.25 per cent, a better performance than the 6.5 per cent the Treasury estimates was achieved in 1995. Imports are expected to rise by 7.75 per cent, so leading to an overall improvement in Britain's visi-

ble trade deficit. The major problem, as yesterday's trade figures showed, is that exports to Britain's key European export markets are faltering. Exports to Europe fell by 5.2 per cent in October largely because demand from Germany and the Benehix countries was weaker. Exports to Germany fell 65 per cent, while exports to the Benefux countries were

down 10.4 per cent. In the current political climate within the Conservative Party, it is understandable that potential prob-



UK exports

to Europe

dropped 5.2%

in October

because of

lems emanating from Europe are best brushed under the carpet as the wooing of the electorate begins in earnest. But. sooner or later, Europe will re-enter with a roar from stage left. The inter-governmental conference on plans for European monetary union will probably start in the second haif of the year and is a timebomb of which John Major is well aware. What is less recognised is the damaging impact on British exporters of the Maastrichtinspired stranglehold on continental

This is a Europe-wide phenomenon, but let us take France and Germany which, in recent years, have accounted for about on quarter of British export markets. The signs are ominous. and unemployment would rise by 0.5 Yesterday, there was news that French per cent. Germany, for all this week's

consumer confidence had fallen to its lowest level since January 1987. On Tuesday, there was news of a 68,000 surge in German unemployment to 3.79 million and a jump of more than 19 per cent in company insolven-cies in October against a year ago.

weaker demand The DIW institute admittedly always on the pessimistic side predicted German growth of only I per cent this year and Helmut Schmidt, a former Chancellor, was moved to characterise Germany as a shackled Gulliver. "If we don't want conditions like in Rome. endless strikes like in Paris, class war like England, or a crippling of public services like the United States, then we must pull ourselves together in 1996," he opined with a tact that must infuriate the Lilliputians with which

Germany means to share its destiny. As Europe struggles to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria by the end of 1997, the risk is that growth will be dampened down to such an extent

that unemployment will rise to even more politically unacceptable levels and that deficits, far from falling, may

actually rise in some cases. Last summer, Mike Dicks, European economist at JP Morgan in London, calculated the size of overall fiscal tightening needed in 14 European countries in order to hit Maastricht's deficit criterium and what the cost would be in growth and unemployment. He estimated that the average fiscal tightening - with no action presumed to be needed in Germany, Denmark, the Irish Republic and The Netherlands would be equivalent to 1.9 per cent of gross domestic product. Growth, on average, would be cut by 2.6 per cent

> chest beating, is probably not in bad shape, with most economists predicting a recovery in growth in the second half of this year after a poor first half. The economics team at Lehman Brothers notes that Germany is planning tax cuts later this year for the low paid, a group

that has a high marginal propensity to spend, and that domestic demand should also be boosted by higher wages.

France is the major worry. Jean Arthuis, France's Finance Minister. yesterday revised down his forecast for growth last year to 26 per cent from 29 per cent, but has thus far left his forecast for growth this year unchanged at 2.8 per cent. This is widely expected to be revised downwards. perhaps to 25 per cent, but most observers of France believe that this is

hopelessly over-optimistic. Mr Dicks has calculated that France would have to tighten fiscal policy overall by 1.1 per cent. This would cut

growth by 1.2 per cent cumulatively and raise unemployment by 0.2 per cent. He now predicts that France may grow by as little as 1.25 per cent this year and that this could leave France's deficit as a percentage of GDP at 4.75 per cent this year and at 4 per cent in 1997, still above the 3 per cent required under Maastricht. He believes that it might take until 1999 for France to meet the deficit criteria.

There are many other sceptical voices. Julian Jessop, European economist with HSBC Markets, believes growth will amount to no more than 1.6 per cent and that the deficit will overshoot, even if the authorities stick to their guns on current deficit plans and stand firm in softe of rising unemployment. He and others, such as James Capel, see the rate of unemployment rising to 12 per cent this year. from 11.5 per cent in 1995.

French ministers may well decry this pessimism from the Euro-sceptic gnomes of London and they will almost certainly continue to pursue their painful Maastricht programme, destroying growth on the way. Having faced down the strikers, the mood is morose but determined and that means a hard, low growth grind for the foreseeable future.

There seems little hope of a big boost to growth from the US, Japan, or the rest of Europe. Some succour may appear in the form of lower interest rates, but with predictions of a gentle rise in German inflation later this year. the scope does not appear to be great as long as France, and others, remain committed to exchange-rate stability against the mark.

And what of our own scentered isle? If consumer spending is really set to grow by 3.5 per cent, the worry must be that imports will start surging. Exports to key European markets are likely to struggle. No wonder that Messrs Howard, Clarke and Portillo are touting for business across the non-European world stage.

Putting the House's pensions in order

An improvement in the scheme for MPs has been attacked as unwarranted.

Alfred Morris replies to the critics

ecent reports about the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) have left some MPs wondering if the fund can really be the one to which they subscribe. The suggestion that a uniform accrual rate of one fiftieth for each year of parliamen-tary service is "selfish" ignores the fact that any change in the fund's provisions must first be recommended by an independent review body. It is that body, not MPs, that has made the fund's accrual rate a priority for change.

Even so, the fund's man aging trustees sought expert and impartial legal advice before accepting the review body's recommendation. That advice emphasised the expertise of the review body, its independence and that its recommendations must be treated by the trustees as "good current practice in pension schemes . . balancing the burden of

contributions against the benefit of higher pensions." To compare the PCPF with the Civil Service scheme is wrongheaded. Not only is the parliamentary scheme a contributory one, it is one in which the member's contribution, at 9 per cent, was

long among the highest of any occupain Britain. This was the price demanded MPs in 1983. by the then Prime Minister, to offset part of the cost of a rebody's paritamenta-

no talk then The leader of the reperconcluded: cussive ef-Morris: "expert advice" "British MPs ... must be fects that level of member's contribupaid a better rate for their job." It might here be added tion would have on others in that their pension fund public service. Listen to some of the "pension exshould also be urgently furperts" and you would think ther reviewed, not least to that the pay of civil servants provide a better deal for is abated by a "notional" 6 widows and other dependants of MPs who have died per cent to pay for their pensions. But it is a notion and for retired MPs whose that nobody else now takes claims have also been seriously, least of all Tony strongly and repeatedly pressed with the indepen-Newton, Leader of the Commons, who told the House dent review body by the when commenting on the managing trustees. To accuse MPs of wrongparliamentary scheme on July 17: " ... there is no getting away from the fact nor do I seek to disguise it -

doing when no wrong has been done is to undermine those who work to eradicate actual wrongdoing. In this instance it is also to invite those who manage the PCPF to ignore expert and impartial legal advice about duties and their

The Rt Hon Alfred Morris, AO QSO MP, is chairman of the managing trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund.

From Mr Michael R. Bond Sir, In the issue of January 3 you refer to the need for the new chief executive of British Telecom to make peace with the regulator. It seems to me that it is the other way around. Far from regulating their respective industries, the regula-tors are trying to mould them in line with their own vision of how things ought to be and which, in most cases, is very different to the situation created by Parliament when the utilities were privatised.

The good news is that the Labour Party has recognised the need to look critically at the role of the regulators. It is a pity that the alleged party of business sees no need to do so. Britain needs strong, com-petitive companies able to

build on their home markets and develop into overseas ones as the opportunity arises. Many utilities are trying to do this, but they are not helped by spiteful regulation which changes the rules every time they successfully cope with the last beartrap set for them. There is a lack of under-standing of competition among those not faced with

petition should be on a global scale. As the figures you published before Christmas showed, on a global scale, British companies don't rate. They never will if they are continually being hamstrung by well-meaning members of the salariat every time they respond positively to the challenges put before them. Yours faithfully MICHAEL R. BOND, competition in their own 119 High Street, fields. The fact is that the utilities are obliged to respond to attempts to steal their

competitive. Now that the

British market is open to all

comers, the measure of com-

Stock Exchange board shows signs of being Luddite

From Mr R. D. Bushrod Sir, Stock Exchange Luddites. After the forced resignation of Michael Lawrence I wonder how many London Stock Exchange board members will reflect on dinner conversations when, undoubtedly, they held forth on the need for the dockers, the miners, the printers and the employees in general to face up to needs of

a modern economy? What happened to those groups which were accused of ignoring reality and putting self-interest before the needs

of their industry, I wonder? Yours faithfully R. D. BUSHROD. Beech Cottage, Lidwells Lane, Goudhurst, Kent.

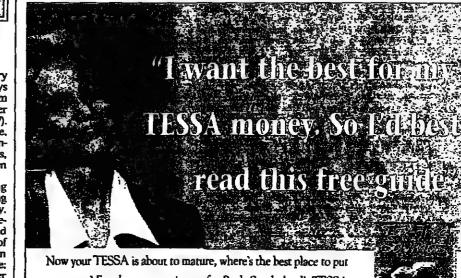
Readers can send their letters to the **Business and Finance section** of The Times by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Utilities, regulators and competition on a global scale Housing gloom

From Mr Alan Bardsley, markets by becoming more Sir, Professional commentary on the housing market always seems to be divorced from reality (Halifax forecasts 2 per cent recovery, December 27). Building societies promote, and commentators still endorse, the boom of the 1970s. when house price inflation exceeded borrowing costs.

The actual market is trying to come to terms with housing as just another commodity. For any of the Halifax forecasts to come to fruition would be unfortunate. The concept of continuous real equity gain in a fixed asset is insupportable; we do not expect that in other

The implication of a 10 per cent decline in turnover is still that 90 per cent of previous transactions are still going on. The vast majority must be contented and perhaps, with luck, we have lost the speculative element of the market. For the blame, the societies ought to look closer to home. Yours faithfully, ALAN BARDSLEY, Cartref, Church Lane, Gawsworth. Macclesfield,



that this is a Contributory

Scheme and that the Civil

Service Scheme Is not."

Since parliamentary pay

was for many years linked to that of a Civil Service grade,

MPs must effectively have been paying a punitive 15

per cent of gross salary for

their pensions when their

scheme's contribution rate

(Hansard, col 1416).

was 9 per cent.

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Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP will depend upon individual circumstances. If you call Fulctury and you receive advice, this will only relate to the products offered by Fidelity Investment Services Limited or a member of its marketing group. The Fidelity PEP is offered and managed by Fidelity Investments Limited regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. TMB?

Alan Stephenson has resigned as chief executive of Ingham, the troubled mini-conglomerate that incurred a pre-tax loss of £1.07 million for the six months to September 30.

The company, which earned £867,000 before tax in the first half of the previous year, announced the sale of its loss-making worsted spinning business for a nominal sum. The sale will leave Ingham to focus on its UK classic car

Mr Stephenson, who became chief executive in August 1994, will remain a non-executive director.

Ingham intends to recommend proposals by potential investors, repre-sented by SBC Warburg. which would involve a share subscription and a related pre-emptive invita-tion to existing shareholders at 36p a share.

Interim losses were 6.6p a share, compared with earnings of 3.2p. There is no interim payout (1.75p).

Ryland up

Ryland Group, the motor distribution and contract hire group, increased pre-tax profits to £1.55 million from £1.15 million in the half-year to October 31, on turnover that rose to £154.8 million from £118.1 miltion. Earnings were 3.55p a share (3.42p). There is an interim dividend of 1.17p a share (0.27p).

Society loan

Northern Rock Building Society has completed its biggest syndicated loan. As co-arranger with Banque Paribas, the society is lend-ing £39 million of an £89 million total loan to fund the transfer of more than 5,000 homes from Rushmoor District Council to Rushmoor Housing Association in Hampshire.

Bell sells

Bell Cablemedia, the UK cable group, has sold its dormant Worcester franchise to TeleWest for £9.8 million. BCM Worcester holds the cable ticences in an area next to TeleWest's Midlands franchise.



A shortage of suitable sites for new stores has forced Basil Taylor, chief executive, to seek new areas for expansion of the rapidly growing business

M&W steps up security as shop crime increases

By MARTIN BARROW

M&W, the convenience store operator, said that the level of retail crime has become a major concern. The company also complained of "a marked unwillingness" to prosecute or deal effectively with shoplifters. Basil Taylor, chief executive, said: "Even more worryingly we have noticed increased levels of violent crime, often involving relatively small

sums of money. The company has consequently needed to invest heaviin increasingly sophisticated security systems involving video surveillance. alarms and time delay devices and we have taken all practicable security measures to protect our customers, our

staff and our stores." M&W, which is based in Southampton, has grown rapidly and now operates 163 outlets, principally in southern England. However, shortage of suitable sites for

company to consider other

M&W yesterday reported profits of £2.66 million before tax for the year to October 1. against £2.61 million in the previous 12 months. Michael Weston, chairman, said competition remained strong, with other retailers opening longer hours in the hope of increasing market share. M&W lifted like-for-like sales by 2.64 per cent, excluding lottery sales.

Mr Taylor said the impact of the National Lottery on operating profits had been broadly neutral. About onehalf of the company's stores are agents for the lottery and sell scratchcards, and these had benefited from an increase in customer flows. But this had been offset by a decline in business at stores that did not offer the lottery. Earnings rose to 10.89p a

share from 10.64p. There is a final dividend of 2.25p, mak-

Troubled Rexam appoints two outsiders to top posts

the prospect of a most exciting and fulfilling future for Rexam, its employees, and shareholders." Rexam has lost 40 per cent of its market value in the past six months after two profit warnings in the autumn. The

these appointments offer

1995 figures are expected to be 20 per cent below 1994. The collapse in the share price cost Rexam its place in the FT-SE 100 and has made it a potential bid target. The recent rise in the share price, from a low of 327p in Decem-ber, has been fuelled by market rumours of a takeover. However, Alusuisse, the Swiss metals and packaging company at the centre of many of rumours, has publicly denied any interest in Rexam.

The new management will

face a difficult task in rebuild-

ing Rexam's share price to a sufficient level to ward off bid threats from companies that see it as a cheap way into the high-margin paper and pack-aging business. But customer destocking, one of the main factors behind Rexam's decline last year, seems to be slowing and analysts expect an improvement in 1996. Mr Lancaster, 59, who is

of Tomkinsons and Kleinwort Benson Group, has been head of Wolseley since 1976. Last year, the group posted record profits of £245 million on turnover of £3.7 billion. Mr Borjesson, 53, has been

chief executive of PLM since Industrivarden, the Swedish investment group, and is to be floated soon at a market value

Vibroplant quits US with sale of American Hi-Lift

VIBROPLANT, the specialist plant hire group, is making an exit from the United States with the disposal of its American Hi-Lift subsidiary to Primeco Inc in a deal worth about \$68.8 million.

American Hi-Lift, which specialises in the sale and hire of aerial lift equipment, is being sold for \$46.5 million. However, Primeco has also agreed to discharge American Hi-Lift's bank debt of about

\$22.3 million. The disposal news helped shares in Vibroplant, which was only capitalised at £34.2 million prior to the US sale news, buck the gloomy market

trend with a 7p rise to 81p. The deal is conditional on shareholder approval, an environmental audit to be carried out by Primeco and US government approval under

Jeremy Pilkington, Vibroplant's chairman and chief executive, said the good sale

price achieved was helped by a good strong shortlist of interested parties". The proceeds from the US sale will be used to wipe out Vibroplant's borrowings, leaving the group with about £20 million net

cash to fund future growth. The Hi-Lift business, which has 18 branches across the US, made pre-tax profits of £2.3 million in the six months to September 30, on turnover of £15.4 million but only £1.4 million pre-tax profits in the year to March 31. It had net assets of £20.3 million at the last year end on March 31.

Mr Pilkington, whose family controls 51.3 per cent of Vibroplant's equity, said: The consideration realised for American High-Lift represents a significant premium over net assets. The proceeds from the sale will enable the company to focus on growth opportunities in the UK."

Weir wins £20m Chinese power order

WEIR Group, the Glasgow engineer, has won an order worth nearly £20 million to supply the main pumps and valves to the Qinshan nuclear power station near Shanghai (Martin Barrow writes).

the appointments, which end 18 months of uncertainty over It is the group's largest ever the succession. Rexam's share price rose 2p to close at 382p. Mr Woodhouse said: "Togethsingle order from the power industry and gives Weir a

further foothold in the Chinese market. Weir Pumps, the company's biggest subsidiary, is to make almost all the pumps for the 1200Niw pressurised water reactor (PWR) plant being built under phase two of the development. Hopkinsons, the valve-maker, will provide cooling-water butter-

fly valves and main steamisolation valves.

Design work starts this year and the equipment will appear on-life in 1998. The plant is being built by the China Nuclear Energy Industry competition and a Chinese de-

difference between the price

paid by ADT (£105 million) and the notional price that someone knowing of the audit deficiencies would have been

prepared to pay for BSG (£40

Subject to the outcome of

Binder Hamlyn's appeal, the

lessons for auditors are all too

clear. The decision will cer-

tainly end any complacency

over Caparo ending the threat

of auditors being required to pick up the whole tab when a

purchaser claims it relied on

As Binder Hamlyn found to

negligently audited accounts.

its great cost, it is all too easy

for an auditor to be held to

have assumed a legal respon-

sibility to a third party for his

If asked about audited ac-

Suffolk to assess performance of Weir equipment in a PWR. To help to secure the order Weh arranged a \$30 million loan through Standard Char-tered Bank, backed by the

US anti-trust legislation. Export Credit Guarantee De-

Tempus, page 2

Costing liability in a new light

Nick Atkins looks at a judgment with far-reaching implications

for auditors of company accounts

ast month's £65 million award of damages, the highest against a UK firm of chartered accountants, sent a shiver through the profession. The damages were awarded to ADT Limited after it relied on accounts audited by Binder Hamlyn in making an agreed bid for Britannia Sec-

urity Group in February 1990. The judgment, which is under appeal, brought into stark relief why it is that firms intend to cap the present unlimited liability of partners by incorporating or creating limited liability partnerships in Jersey. The ruling demonstrates how easily auditors can lose the protection from negligence suits afforded them by the landmark case of Caparo

Industries v Dickman. In 1990, the House of Lords stated in Caparo that auditors owe a duty to the company they are auditing and generally not to third parties. How then was ADT, which was not Binder Hamlyn's client, able to recover damages from the auditors of the company that it

Early in October 1989, ADT began negotiations with BSG. a security alarm business, about a possible agreed bid. At

This lady's ready

for returning

the end of that month, Binder Hamlyn signed the audit certificate for BSG's accounts for the year to June 30, 1989. By Christmas 1989 agreement in principle had been reached for ADT to acquire BSG. However. ADT's chairman insisted that there should be a meeting with BSG's auditors before a formal bid was made.

REXAM, the troubled print-

ing and packaging company formerly known as Bowater,

has appointed two outsiders

as chairman and chief

Jeremy Lancaster, at

present the chairman and

chief executive of Wolseley, the

building materials group, will

become chairman in May

when Mike Woodehouse re-

tires. However, he will join the

Rolf Borjesson, chief execu-

tive of PLM, the Swedish

packaging company, will suc-ceed David Lyon as managing

director and chief executive in

July. Mr Lyon will continue as

a director for an additional 12

The City was pleased with

months.

board immediately as vice

On January 5, 1990, the Binder Hamlyn audit partner was telephoned by BSG and asked (as a service to his client) to attend a meeting that afternoon with a representative of ADT. Binder Hamlyn had not been involved in any of BSG's negotiations with ADT. During the 45-minute meet-

ing, the audit partner was asked by ADT what turned out to be two critical questions. First, did he "stand by the 1989 accounts"? Second, was there should be told? The partner answered "yes" and "no".

Thereafter, ADT formally made its bid and acquired BSG. ADT then discovered that the financial position of BSG was not as it expected. In 1992, ADT launched its claim, accusing Binder Hamlyn of negligent auditing. The High Court ruled last



Nick Atkins warns auditors against complacency

audit partner's answers to ADT's two questions Binder Hamlyn could not rely on Caparo to defeat the claim. Knowing that ADT intended to acquire BSG, Binder Hamlyn had told ADT directly that they stood by BSG's Damages were assessed as the

month that because of the audited accounts and in doing

so assumed a legal responsi bility to ADT for the accuracy and competence of their audit. The court decided that Binder Hamlyn's audit had been negligent and that ADT was entitled to compensation.

counts by a third party, the safe courses are to decline to say anything or to issue a clear disclaimer of liability before answering. It would also be wise for the response to be recorded, preferably in a letter to the third party.

That said, in the real world,

a purchaser may well insist on a direct assurance from the auditor of the target company before going ahead. The audi-tor is likely to be under pressure by his client to give the assurance. Further claims against auditors by disappointed purchasers are inev-

The author is a partner in Lovell White Durrant

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IT IS the season for in-fighting and skulduggery at the Insti-tute of Chartered Accountants KPMG. All three have stood before but the real battle will be between Masters and Swinson. The institute has in England and Wales. Nominever had a woman president nations for the election of the and it would be thought a next vice-president were public relations disaster to fought over at last weekend's council conference. The likely have Masters rejected for a second time. But as a council hats in the ring are the thoroughly decent sole practimember whispered from betioner, Michael Groom, the hind his copy of Machiavelli: ebullient and substantial fig-There is a secretariat cahal keeping Sheila Masters out. ure of BDO Stoy Hayward They know that if she got in partner, Chris Swinson, and the austere Sheila Masters of she would sack them all."

More thoughts

THE retirement from Coopers & Lybrand of insolvency guru. David Graham QC, has not meant an end to his interest in the more unsavoury aspects of financial behaviour. He is researching a history of insolvency law. In the latest issue of Coopers' journal, Phoenix, he has provided some nuggets. In particular, Thomas More's account in 1513 of the abuse of the law of sanctuary. Church-

es gave sanctuary but found that "malicious heinous traitors" ran to them with other people's money and goods and spent the lot having "bidden

Name game

have changed.

their creditours gooe whistle

them". And they say things

THE ICA council conference made progress on regulating the profession. But it has name problems. Given regulators are

now "Offthis" or "Offthat" they want to know which is the least worst of "Office of Professional Standards" or "Professional Standards Office".

Unplanned lunch

EVEN printing gremlins are becoming cynical these days. In my column last week, I appeared to have suggested that senior partners should offer clients "the benefit of a prescient lunch". This should have read "a prescient hunch". Though come to think of it . . .

ROBERT BRUCE

Seeking a reasonable inside check on fraud

ROBERT

BRUCE

IT IS ironic. For years, company directors have be ated auditors for not taking specific responsibility for detecting fraud. The auditors have wriggled on the hook. They know that if they said that fraud detection was one of their duties then every time a company suffered from fraud it would be the auditors, yet again, who would be sued.

If directors were so worried about fraud, one would presume they would have installed systems to combat its likelihood. Not so. A survey by Ernst & Young of the UK top 500 companies showed that "almost 40 per cent of the companies interviewed have no in-

house internal audit function". Small wonder that Ian Plaistowe, chairman of the Auditing Practices Board, was so ebullient earlier this week when he unveiled analysis of the responses the board received to its most recent paper. This had discussed the effectiveness of internal financial controls and had followed in the wake of the APB's

guidance. In the words of Philip Ashton of Price Waterhouse, who is now in charge of the APB's internal control efforts, this had gone "within a whisker of insisting directors had to report on the effectiveness of internal controls".

The responses show that this panicked directors up and down the country. "It is a great step forward," Plaistowe said. "Companies are now making sure they have effective internal controls." This is a remarkable statement. It must have seemed obvious that in a sophisticated corporate environment companies would have pretty effective systems for ensuring that everything was working properly. But

A simple suggestion that directors should state in their report and accounts to shareholders that they have an effective system of internal financial controls has resulted in corporate worlds being turned upside down. The picture is one of company chairmen phoning finance directors to ask about the health of the internal audit department only to find the last tranche of delayering they ordered had abolished it.

Now, the important issue is the definition of "effective" and quite how wide is the whisker that Ashton talked about. This could take time. Far better to try another track. And that is what the APB is seeking to do.
Plaistowe argued that to ask auditors to

report on how "effective" a system of internal

control was would only create another expectations gap. Auditors would certify one system effective and then find that it broke down a week after the year-end. They would get sued again. Auditors are tired of being

sued and will try to avoid it at all costs.

So a wording has been created and the hopes are that it will become best practice. The example the APB put forward is that used by the BOC Group. In a lengthy section in the directors' report the system of internal control is outlined and the areas to which it applies detailed. The directors then state that the system provides "reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and recorded properly and that material errors and irregularities are either prevented or would

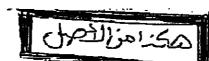
be detected within a timely period". The latest accounts of Hanson provide another variant. The section on internal financial control concludes with the sentence: "Internal financial control, by its nature,

provides only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material mis-statement or loss."

The key is the phrase reasonable and not absolute". This formula is seen as the one which is likely to provide a way forward. It will keep directors on the straight and narrow without forcing them to say something definitive which they might regret. And it allows auditors to review the systems, but not have to give any authoritative ruling. In the words of Plaistowe: "We rather like the look of it."

If the idea takes off, the boot may well be on the other foot when it comes to auditors, who are still reluc-

tant to commit themselves. Of the 13 accounting firms that responded to the discussion paper, only Touche Ross was deemed to be "supportive of auditors" attestation on effectiveness". Eight were opposed. But companies that are taking the reasonable but not absolute" route will decide that if they have done the work then auditors should provide the other side of the bargain. Talking to Tony Isaac, BOC's finance director, it became obvious that this was an objective. "I don't have a problem with the auditors commenting on internal control," he said. As far as he could see, it was now the auditors who had problems. And that was down to what he called "the litigation cloud over the whole profession".



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FILM 1

Paul Verhoeven's flesh-filled Showgirls proves to be a tacky and pointless folly



FILM 2

.. but Carl Franklin's Devil in a Blue Dress is an evocative thriller set in 1940s Los Angeles





FILM 3

In the overblown The War, Kevin Costner plays the Vietnam vet drawn into battles closer to home



FILM 4 .. while The

Run of the Country, with Albert Finney, is a woolly tale of Irish romance

CINEMA: Geoff Brown makes his excuses and leaves as the Showgirls show how unsexy wall-to-wall nudity can be

This too, too sullied flesh

ollywood lunacy scaled a new peak back in November 1992 when Charles Evans, a producer, property developer and co-founder of a sportswear empire, paid \$2 million -- in cash, no less -- for the kernel of a film called Showgirls. No script existed, but there was an idea burning inside the head of Joe Eszterhas, the town's most expensive scribe, which he outlined to Evans in a reported four minutes. No stars were attached to his notion of a raunchy rock musical set in Las Vegas, but there was a hope—just a hope—that Paul Verhoeven, Eszterhas's director on Basic Instinct, might be

Last year Hollywood lunacy scaled an even greater peak when the film was unveiled, almost proudly, with an NC-17 certificate: the first mainstream product to be widely released with the adult rating most American producers fight desperately to avoid. For what had that money, and that controversy, bought? Just a hoary yarn, as old as 42nd Street or A Star is Born, about a hot, grasping girl called Nomi, played by Elizabeth Berkley, an actress plucked from nowhere, to which she will probably return.

Nomi begins as a lowly stripper. She has sex in a pool with Kyle MacLachlan, the Diaghilev of Las Vegas, toys vaguely with lesbian affections, and encourages Gina Gershon, the town's reigning diva, to fracture a hip by falling down stairs. By the end, of course, she is the Strip's main attraction, spewing out of a volcano in a tasteful show called Goddess.

Verhoeven's treatment only nakes the crude storyline, imping drama and threadpare characters worse. No shred of subtlety clings to his images. He is out to ogle flesh. There is plenty of razzmatazz and gold lame, but no heart, not even a faint erotic tingle as my jiggle or strut before us. Nomi, like all the showgirls, uses her body as a commodity.

Showgirls Odeon West End 18, 131 mins Miserable garish folly

Devil in a Blue Dress Curzon West End 15, 101 mins Atmospheric thriller

The War Empire 2, 12, 125 mins Simpering fable with Kevin Costner and kids

The Run of the Country Odeon Haymarket 15, 109 mins Faded blarney with Albert Finney

approach: and it seems particularly mean of the script to single out a fictional rock star. one Andrew Carver, as Las Vegas's brute male when the species overflows on both sides of the camera.

"This picture," Eszterhas trilled in the pages of Variety, will absolutely be on the cutting edge of contemporary musicals." But even as a musical Showgirls fails. David Stewart, late of the Eurythmics, presides over a soundtrack that pummels the ears without benefit, while the dance moves, mixed in with much writhing and fondling, are too repetitive and absurd to make the screen shake.

All told Shawgiris is a miserable folly: a strenuous attempt at a big, bold movie that both bores your brain and numbs your feelings. If you stay the course until the final credits, you will be informed that "Animal action was monitored by the American Humane Association. No animal was harmed in the making of this film." Cheering news, I suppose, but what about the humans who watch it?

At times in Devil in a Blue Dress, a superbly atmospheric adaptation of Walter Mosyour sensitivities under attack. A character like Mouse, sidelins, is a trigger-happy psy-chotic; yet, in the hands of actor Don Cheadle, his portrayal is light and sympathet-ic. Should we really find this human keg of dynamite so

Carl Franklin's film, a belated successor to his excellent first feature One False Move. fatale should have some magnetic allure, but Beals's weak net, the white girl and politi-cian's friend that Easy is hired would have difficulties attract-

wary performance as the ordinary Joe plunged into deep water. Franklin finds much quirky humour in the tale. But this is always entertainment with a thoughtful undertow. Easy's search for Daphne takes him across LA's class and ethnic barriers, yet the film still gives the impression of unfolding in a golden age. before urban decay took hold. After cooking up Fried Green Tomatoes, producer-

Mississippi. Family man Kevin Costner has returned

Southern charm to put into

The War. They do not make a

has other trouble spots. Such as Jennifer Beals, the devil in a blue dress herself. A femme performance as Daphne Moto find, suggests someone who ing a fly.
Since Daphne lies at the

mystery's centre, the damage is not insignificant. But so much else in the film is beautifully realised. Franklin and production designer Gary Frutkoff evoke the time and place - 1948, Los Angeles with a loving care that never degenerates into a fussy accretion of period props. Tak Fujimoto's camera roams the manicured lawns, basks in the glaring sun. and dives into

bustling night spots.
Rawlins is a GI who faces mortgage problems when he loses his job in an aircraft factory. Offered \$100 to locate Monet, he jumps to it, only to find corpses, police and politi-cians collecting round his feet. Helped by Washington's

turned-director Jon Avnet has found a few more scraps of



Gina Gershon and Elizabeth Berkley in Showgirls, a "strenuous attempt at a big, bold movie that bores your brain and numbs your feelings" the SAS, time seems to have

cious chest stitches and signs of mental trauma. He keeps losing jobs but, as he blandly tells his son Elijah Wood, "so long as we got hope, there's always a chance".

There's always a Southern accent, too. Costner's is illsuited, but it is more understandable than some of the children's. And it is on the children that the film's story ultimately rests. Young Wood, impressive as usual, leads the offspring in building a tree house, which comes under attack from a family of louts. Another war, therefore, is fought alongside Costner's tortured memories of Vietnam. and one that grows to preposterous dimensions. Avnet and his players manage a few the new, racist schoolteacher in her bright pink dress. She knocked down. What did you do in The War, Daddy? I groaned, my pet, and looked at

and woolly-headed Irish drama from the pen of Shane Connaughion, author of My Left Foot. Let the production notes explain: "The Run of the Country is a story of love: love between a boy and a girl, between father and son, and love for Ireland." Abstract ideas outnumber dynamic events by about ten to one, and you almost despair of getting involved in the comings and goings of 17-year-old Danny, his wild chum Prunty, and the who wins Danny's heart.

Despite passing references

passed this film by. Life goes on as it might have in the 1950s, and the stale feeling is enhanced by Albert Finney. playing his third movie Irish man in three years. As the stern, widowed Garda sergeant struggling with a teenage son, Finney lends some much-needed force to a drooping film. But his is acting in capital letters, and it scarcely boosts an authenticity already imperilled by the casting of an earnest, picture-postcard American, Matt Keeslar, as

The landscapes, at least, are the genuine article, and the director makes the most of them. His name? Peter Yates, lurching somewhat in a bizarre transatlantic career that has already encompassed the Royal Court Theatre, Bullitt. Cliff Richard, Tom Selleck and Cher. Whatever next?

'Sassy, sexy movie-making... Franklin's long-awaited follow-up to 'One False Move' doesn't disappoint." 'Jazzy and elegantly assured

detective drama." Angie Errigo, PREMIERE

powerful dramatic presence by Chance and Thompson and framed by two Morike Lieder of Hugo Wolf and a lilting, valedictory Die seele Christi by Heinrich Schütz, following on from the canticle without a break, just as it had

CONCERTS: Joan Rodgers excels in a memorable vocal series; and a fine choir delves into 16th-century rarities

"TICK tock, tick tock, went Britten's piano accompani-ment to Pushkin's poem, Lines written during a sleepless night. Then, suddenly and quietly, a faint chiming began, as Pushkin's own clock joined in, striking midnight and, it seemed, even more, until the song had ended."

This anecdote, recalled by Peter Pears in the journal he kept during his visit with

A Russian debt paid in full Benjamin Britten to Pushkin's birthplace in 1965, has become a little emblem of the composer's relationship with Russia.

the subject of the penultimate

evening in the Wigmore Hall's

revelatory Britten Song Series.

which began last September.

Britten's songcycle The Poer's Echo bounced back more truly than either Pears or Britten could have expected. The empathy felt by the composer for the poet's words still resonates through some of the most intensely concentrated

music he was to write for the human voice. Joan Rodgers eloquently recreated the passion and the pain of the ignored artist in the cycle. To hear Rodgers in the Russian song repertoire which

framed the Britten was to enjoy a sophisticated, highly intelligent and flawlessly artistic presentation of a literature deep under her linguistic skin. The Mussoresky cycle. The Nursery, was sung with bright-eyed but discreet characterisation. This was a Russian storybook read in an essentially English nursery. Her Tchaikovsky, too, came to life as vivid. heightened speech, the words of At the Ball dancing gladly through the line with Malcolm Martineau's piano playing, and the modal contours of Was I not a little blade of grass as full and free as unaccompanied folk

on deranged humanity, began Rodgers's recital. The song bounced its own echoes off another Britten-Purcell realisation from the early evening concert, when Richard Jackson had given a word-lively performance of I'll sail upon a Dog-star. Jackson was joined by tenor Adrian Thompson. counter-tenor Michael Chance and pianist Julius Drake for a re-creation of a 1971 Aldeburgh Festival concert which presented Britten's fourth canticle, Journey of the Magi.

Benjamin Britten

Song Series

Wigmore Hall

Britten's realisation of Mad

Bess, Purcell's own compas-

sionate, tragicomic reflection

The original quartet of James Bowman, Pears, John

done in Aldeburgh. HILARY FINCH

dy words.

Sheppard leads the way

THE first programme in the Tallis Scholars' mini-series at St John's, Smith Square (three concerts in as many months), focused on the music of John Sheppard, presenting his Cantate Mass alongside works by two other 16th-century English composers: Robert White and Thomas

The most remarkable thing about the Tallis Scholars is their consistency, both in the standard of performance and in the overall sound they produce, even when, as on this occasion, there were some changes in personnel. So high is that standard, the smallest blemish - and there were a few fluffed entries here makes a disproportionate

Although the group is well

Tallis Scholars St John's

known for its recording of music by continental composers such as Josquin and Palestrina, its sound is perhaps most readily associated with English sacred polyphony. and notably those stratospheric treble lines (beautifully sung by Deborah Roberts and Ruth

Holton). This was certainly the case in the Sheppard mass setting, although there were quite extended passages for the lower voices alone, in which the equally excellent basses Francis Steele and Donald Greig shone. On first hearing, the Missa Cantate is clearly a fine piece, but the perfor-

The singers were clearly at home with Tallis's Lamentations (thought to have been composed early in the reign of Elizabeth I), and gave a magisterial account of them. That Sheppard was capable of composing in a direct, expressive vein was clear from his poignant setting of In Manus Tuas, while White's extended account of the Miserere confirmed that in England, as on the Continent, penitential texts drew something very special from composers of church music in the Renaissance.

TESS KNIGHTON

later in the season.







CHOICE 1

Sir Peter Hall recruits a star for Wilde's An Ideal Husband VENUE: In preview.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket

ELSEWHERE



■ CHOICE 2

Elgar Howarth directs Birtwistle's Panic, the Proms sensation

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

DINBURGH: Carping Hall diveds

EDINSURGH: Cardine Hail divids The Statemie, Tony Roper's modern Scotish classic memories, hopes and and gissip's snapped by four women in the days before launderelies. Royal Lycoum, Gridlay Street (0131-223 9937) Free preview tomph; 7 45pm; opens tomprow 7 45pm Then Mon-Sat, 7 45pm; mate Jan 20 and 24 2 30pm. Untel Feb 3 30

HIAL: Conductor Bury Wordsworth

HIAL: Conductor Barry mortawarm and parases Matria, Jones seam up longist for the first of many Hallié Orchestra whiche-stop concerts this season. The well-meet programme of annumbes includes works by Glimia. Prokatiev, Rachmaninov and Gerstwin City Hail, Victoria Square (0482, 226555). Tongist, 7 30pm (2)

British Niuseum. Olyo and kyoto partings (0171-636 1555) Hayward An and Power Europe under the decators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) National Gallery Cott, in Love the Caraco Castoons Restored (0171-747 2885) Hational Povinsit Callery Lire of the Limbelght (0171-306 0055) Royal Academy Alno, An of a Continent (0171-439 7438). Take Dynasties Partings in Tuder and Jacobean England (0171-387 8000) V & A. Jan Arl from India.

is SALTHEBANCO Admined by such as Robin Williams. Ball Circion and Madonna, the Montreal-based Corque du Soloit armes for a London season Forty-five performers factors, diametrs, acrobats, britiant costumes, no

whensels Albert Hall, Nengington Gore, SAF (0171-589 8212) Tue-Sun, 7 45pm Sat and Sun, 2 30pm Unit Jan 18 (a)

E VOYAGE IN THE DARK Juin he vortace in the Count Juan
Phys 1934 nove; shooting when it is appeared, adapted by Joan Wiles for the Spluro company. A nave beauty orders the right-club world of the deminional Suc Parieth directs. Start of

Young Vic Studie The C.d. SE1 (0171-528 6363) Opens tonght, 7.30pm Then Mon-Sar, 7.30pm Until Jan 27.

LONG RUNNERS

nest Phrits (0171-938 8500)

LONDON GALLERIES





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■ CHOICE 3

while Mark Elder conducts the CBSO in English music VENUE: Symphony Hall.



YOUNG ARTS

Children learn something of the elegant craft of bookbinding from the experts at the British Library

LONDON

AN IDEAL HUSSAND First right of previous for Peter Hall revening his 1932 greatester of Wide is farmed political seaze and scandar A trancast includes Machin Shaw Anna Content and Pointy Francisco. Dosme Theatre Royal Haymanic: SW1 (017° 030 5809) Tongta-Jun 16,

7.45pm mar Sat. 3pm Opens Jan 17,

MACBETH First night of previews too for Einstein Tearing Theater's auccessful chodeshon Paul Higgins takes the tille rick and Stephen Union decide Lynle Wing Street Hammersmith, W6 9021-741 2311, Temph-Men 7 30pm. Opens Jan 15 Tpm (§) PEROUSSION BASH TIP LUNCOS

Prichamonic opens the new year with a devocation of the world of percussion flight-ghts of the day arounds a warmup fact back with LP percussions at all-day creative workshop with Sir Hambon Bittars'te cuminating in a mupic theatre preop performed as 5pm, work-theps, and open spaces for Stepht, conducted by Sigar Howarth, act teature Sichnotie's Parus final heard al me 1956 Proma season Outern Ellesberg, Hell, South Bark, S81 (9171 960 4242) Registration 9am-10 15am, concert 7 45pm 🔊

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herwise contained insents.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Remaid ian Judge's popular but over-swerr groduction Clive Francis plays

Wyndhem's Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-389 1746) Mon-Set 7 30pm mats Thurs and Set 2,30pm.

C) HYSTERIA Honry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali. in Terry Johnson's sureal, double &Aat Switter. The furnest schools play

Plaise of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm ma's Thurs and Sat, 3pm @

E AN INSPECTOR CALLS Significan

Caldry's powerful production, with Nicholas, Woode son as the all-mowing Incontror, and Edward Poel and Susan

Jones plays her mother and Stephan Ley her mother's lover, both with unscrupulous and ambibous plans Playhouse Gun Wharf (01603-766 469) Opera tonght pm Then Mon-S apm mats Thurs and Sal. 2 30pm. (2)

NORWICH Opening right for Jim Cartimpta's cooler of a compay The Risco and Part of Units Valor. Allow Burrows plays Little Voice Iwing through old records and glamorous stats, harbouring a secret talent. Carolyn

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

EIGRIMINGHAM Main Elder and the

BOTHINGHAM Was Eder and the City of Birmingtons Symptomy Orchestra offer three English 20th-certury lymbal masterpaces in tonghi's programme. Datas's Song of Summer opens the concert, followed by Tippett's showcase for varific, viola and cello, the Triple Concerto, and Hols's colourful The Purnets
Symptomy Hall, Centenaty Square, (0121-212 3333), Tonght, 7 30pm, repected Sat. Tym. (6)

THEATRE GUIDE

Schools Super, SC2 (017) 438 58311 Tongir-Sa; 7 15pm mats today and Sai 2pm.Final week S JOLSON The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Control belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Tripled is an impressive that you have ☐ THE DUCHESS OF MALF!
Anaplases Hille plays the beleaguered heroine in Choes by Jow's new production. In London as part of its Ruby Keeler Victor Say, Sal 1 (0171-834 1317) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sal, 3pm (5)

S ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD AGEN Scarborough and Samon Russes Beale play Stoppard's almondart londs Matthew Franco directs Matthew Franco directs National (Lytetory), South Bank, SE1 (0171-926 2252) Tongh, Set, 7 30pm mai Set, 2 15pm.

I INDERTY STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB. English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvoy's thoughtful and passionate play Critisrion, Piccadility Circus, W1 (0171-833 4488) Tue-Sat, 8pm Sun, 7pm, mats Sat, 4pm and Sun, 3pm

Engel as the p-Tar's of spoety Gernick, Channing Cross Road, VIC2 (9171-494 5085; Mon-Fn, 7 45pm, Sat, 6 (5pm mats Wed, 2,30pm, Saf, 5pm)

NEW RELEASES ALL MEN ARR MORTAL (15) Dull Surrouding from Smore de Beauch's rotel about the and immortally, with hare shout and Stephen Fire Director. Are de Jong MGMa: Polhace Road & (0171-370 2635; Haymarket (0171-839 1527)

er (4743) THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF

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CINEMA GUIDE

• COMETHING TO TALK ABOUT (115): Julid Roberto as a scathern wile facing her husband's inflaelity Talky rate with small pleasures. Laste Hallstrom cirects Dennis Quard Kyra

Sedgwick: 배명해: Fullium Roud (9171-370) 2636) Trocadero 및 (9171-434 0031) Noting Hill Coronet 및 (9171-727 8705) Odeon Swiss Comage (91426 914038) UCI Whiteleys 및 (9171-732 3332) Warner 및 (9171-437-4343)

CURRENT ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE ALE VEHTURE WHEN NATURE CALLS (PG), Overbearing whose for rubber-laced Bin Carrey, down among Almost mises Describe Staye Declared Capham Picture Houses (0711-439 3233) MGRiss Fullium Road (0711-27) 2555 Trocaders § 0717-434 0731 Octoops: Keesington (01425 914656) Swiss Cottage (01425 914953 2772) Screen/Baker Street: 3171-935 2772; UCI Whiteleys (5) (0171-752 3332; Warner (5) (0171-437 4343)

BASE FULL Glorous vividous lamb, lilm about a cheep-herding p.g. with a cast of tabing animals. Clepham Picture House (017) 456-3321; Empire & (017) 437-734 Highes Bater Street (017) 935-9778.

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M THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15) Acrons struggle to mount Hamet. Over manic cornedy from Kennish Britisch arin Machael Majoney, Joan Collin

Books bound for glory



uriouser and curiouser. There I was, hunting for the autograph manuscript of Alice's Adventures Under Ground. surrounded on all sides by George III's collection of 60,000 leather-covered. gold-tooled and monogrammed books in the King's Library, when suddenly a panel of books slid aside to reveal a tiny wooden door. Behind it crouched a narrow dark corridor, more and still more books, a jar of orange marmalade - no. surely . And a bubbling fragrance of

coffee, the smell of freshlycrackling paper. If the New Building at St Pancras should ever open, the British Library's Education Service will surely mourn the loss of its secret rabbit warren. But for at least another year it

is safe, say Karen Brookfield and Kate Barnes, the eager emissaries of the written and orinted word who, since 1991. have been celebrating its history and artistry with carties of ◆ THE SANTA CLAUSE (I): Divarced ded becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy, with a human face regularly Tem July 2017-1545 \$1990 Colonia: Kensington -01-26 \$14660 Seeks Cottage (01-26 \$14760 West End (01-26 \$1574, UC) Whitesings ② (0177-792 \$332). children from all over London. This morning they were preparing to welcome a group of eight-year-olds in forest green from Sarum Hall School in Hampstead to one of their primary school weekshops.

At the British Library, Hilary Finch joins a group of children in a lesson on the ancient art of bookbinding

King's Library was transformed into a drama space for a play about Yaqut, the 13thcentury Islamic calligrapher: but today the focus was on the books themselves - the making, the binding, the decorating, the illuminating.

Another shelf of books

rolled away and another little room glowed out of the warren. A long table busy with baskets of needles and thread, bulldog clips, strips and sheets of coloured paper, cork tiles. in the British Library's own bindery, it takes a month to make a book. Sarum Hall had 45 minutes, and that included time for the untangling of the mathematical conundrum of spacing the holes and numbering the pages: an impenetrable puzzle in which 4 faces 1 on Side A. and 2 faces 3 on Side B. and the pattern of 5, 4, 8, 1 and

 5. 6. 2. 7 is called a quarto. But first the folding. Professional binders do not use their hands but a bone rule. A tricky one, this, especially for Hampstead. "Hands up if you eat meat?" (One or two tentarively raised elhows). "Well, when the butchers have prepared the meat, they give the bones

that are left over to bookbind-" ("Why don't they wait ers. until the animals are dead?") Then the stitching. A special needle: sharp. strong and very

long. A tiny puncture in the forest green. "Well. I wouldn't put it through your jersey just now. Bring it round from the back to the front, through the same hole. Now it's probably difficult for other people to hear if you're singing . . Back in the main hall of the

King's Library, the other half of the group were learning about decoration. And women scribes. "Look at Christine de Pisan! She was born in 1304. and wrote a lot about women in history. It's so often mostly about men, isn't it? But I could see one of you, 600 years ago,

sitting in your scriptorium, using a quill or a reed pen. Now, what do you think made that deep, rich red colour? Strawberries? Redcurrants? No. Well done, Imogen ... crushed beetles! Imported Moroccan beetles. Now let's prepare one of Christine de Pisan's inks . . . " Cut from scriptorium to

sanctorum, and the dimly-lit hall of manuscripts where the Lindisfarne Gospels lie open at folio 139, radiating the great initial page at the start of the Gospel according to St Luke. An excited cry from Diana Grace Jones, the class teacher. "Oh, there's the cat. We've had it on the board for a whole term." The benevolent feline pounced round the bottom right-hand corner of the border. birds flying from its tail. Eadfrith, says the colophon, wrote the tome: Ethelward impressed it and covered it; Billfrith, the anchorite, adorned it with gold and gems. And Aldred glossed it in English between the lines with the help of God and St Cuthbert.

Jones has been bringing her charges to gaze upon the holy

brothers' handiwork for eight years now — but this is the first time they have had a chance to learn the details of the great book's making. "I like to teach the Anglo-Saxons from the imagination. I read them Beowulf, and they love the idea that they were such a fierce and pagan lot, yet in 200 years' time they were producing the most beautiful works of art. And that art doesn't have to be personal, with the artist receiving all the acclaim. This was done for its own sake - for the sake of beauty, for the glory of God. They re-

spond to that.
They've already cottoned on to the fact that the books in our own school library are failing apart. And that the books here aren't. So they're learning about really bothering, really taking care. Next term it's the Norman Conquest, and we'll be able to make our own books about the Bayeux Tapestry. We can't quite work out the way in which the pages are numbered at the moment. But we're getting there."

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VISUAL ART

Plans atoot in Piccadilly: the Royal Academy's president predicts a year of momentous change



THEATRE I

funny slice of seedy London life comes in Goldhawk Road at the Bush





■ THEATRE 2

... but the sordid world revealed in the Old Red Lion's Bukowski bill does not merit staging



■ THEATRE 3

"Multicultural hogwash" at the National comes to an end as the leading actor quits Cyrano

Simon Tait talks to the newly re-elected president of the Royal Academy about his plans for expansion and development

Presidential ambitions for the Academy

t takes the kind of Pan-glossian rose tint that would make even Virginia Bottomley blush to turn a likely £500,000 loss into a triumph, but as the Royal Academy enters the most critical year in its recent history, its president, Sir Philip Dowson, has it. Africa: Art of a Continent closes on January 21, having drawn an estimated 250,000 visitors and general critical acclaim, but Dowson admits that it is likely to be the academy's biggest ever loss-

As he never misses the chance to point out, the academy gets no public funding at And if it did, it would probably not have been

allowed to do the exhibition. "We jealously guard our independence because it makes it possible to do things which would otherwise be impossible. I really believe the academy is the only institution that could have presented the Africa exhibition: it's so fraught with political and financial problems that we alone could undertake it because we are responsible only to ourselves and the

Queen," he says.
Political problems included having to change some of the Islamic exhibits so as not to nslame fundamentalist rage n Egypt, and it is not the first ime the academy has courted political fury. Three years ago Dowson's predecessor, Sir Roger de Grey, ignored Forhead with The Sacred Art of libet, which highlighted the ontinuing destruction of anzient Tibetan heritage by the

occupying Chinese forces. **But financial considerations** could easily have been a more persuasive reason for not oing ahead with the African exhibition when a major coreunder pulled out (although here was some sponsorship rom De Beers, the Anglounerican corporation).

Instead, the academy decidd on aesthetic grounds: "We alt that the time was right, hat we had almost an obligaion to present it. It's enornously important. We pracically had to create a new nuseum within the galleries n six weeks, a great tribute to

my staff," Dowson says.

The loss on the largest and most expensive exhibition the academy has mounted, costing almost £1 million, might have been much more if the Martin Gropius Bau in Berlin had not decided, after it opened in London, to take it there for three months before the show moves to its other scheduled venue, the Gug-genheim in New York.

6 We are responsible only to ourselves and the Queen 9

In his first interview since his election, Dowson says 1996 is the academy's year of decisions, when its future will be cast and adjustments made to prepare for that future. He has just been re-elected for his third year as president, a formality after a nail-biting contest in 1993 to take over from the late de Grey. A founder of Arup Associates, he is only the fifth architect to be elected, bearing another, Colin St John Wilson.

The abundance of architectural candidates was no accident. The project de Grey bequeathed to the academy was the acquisition of 6 Bur-lington Gardens, the home behind the academy of the Museum of Mankind. which moves back to the British Museum in 1997. A draft lottery scheme is being circulated among members in the next few days before a formal bid is made to the Arts and Heritage Lottery Funds to convert the building to the academy's use.

The freehold is transferring from the Department of the Environment to the Department of National Heritage. and the academy wants it on the same basis as its present building, a 999-year lease on a peppercorn rent.

Three-quarters of the space

present academy, which is now bursting at the seams thanks to the increased activities brought by the new Sackler Galleries. The moneyspinning Manet to Gauguin exhibition last year, for instance, bad 250,000 people

easing through those rooms. The architect Michael Hopkins has devised a masterplan which includes a brasserie, the best art-book shop in London" and a great atrium The ground floor would be for the RA Schools, giving them exhibition space and studios.

"This would be a centre for the visual arts, and in the middle of Piccadilly, I think it would be a great gift to the nation." Dowson says, and he has already started by clearing half the cars out of the academy's forecourt and replacing them with fixed seating.

The most notable innovation in the new acquisition would be the architecture centre. "We desperately need a place which is a greenfield site. not associated with any professional or government or commercial institution but absolutely, in that sense, unded." The academy has a popular programme of architectural lectures, hosts seminars on urban matters and plans an exhibition on links between the north and south of

This architecture centre would be the natural place for all these sorts of discussions," Dowson says. "Major issues of public importance in urban matters and the environment can be debated and discussed because we have no axe to grind, we are an open place. I'm not thinking of presenting just models and drawings. which are difficult to understand, but using new-technology in presentations so that we can try to present in a way which grabs people.

The environment as a whole and design within the environment is of national importance because the health. of cities is the health of nations, and the urban problems of the 21st century are the heart of any discussion."

● Africa: Art of a Continent is at The existing galleries are in



Academic excellence: Sir Philip Dowson is determined "to lay foundations to meet the challenges of financial backing as well as design"

the process of being upgraded thanks to sponsorship with which comes endowment funding for the future maintenance of the rooms. All this, plus the opening of the Bur-lington Gardens building, needs to be in sight of completion by 1998, so that Dowson, who must retire as president at 75, can go happily in 1999. It will probably make him

one of the greatest developing presidents that the academy has had. Appropriately, an exhibition opening on February 15 commemorates a previous reforming president, Frederick Leighton Leighton's last reported words when he died 100 years ago were "my love to the Royal Academy but pragmatism infuses Dowson's sentimentality.

"My hope is to lay foundations, foundations in every sense, because we need an organisation which will meet those challenges of financial backing as well as design, and everything we do now will be to meet those requirements. If I can get those foundations in place, I shall feel that I've come to something."

the Royal Academy (0171-439 7428) until January 21

Return to the gallows poll

Oliticians get away with murder, thanks to the electronic media. So fast is information disseminated, so instant is the analysis and so rapid the transition from this crisis to the next that even the most appalling cock-ups get little more than their allotted 15 minutes of infamy.

Which is why programmes that look backwards serve a most useful purpose: they can often reveal more by taking a longer perspective, and they also serve to remind us of the full horrors attendant upon the absence of someone who has the guts to "No, minister" when faced with a politician in full

Consequences (Radio 4) is a series about the ramifications of public policy. It is introduced by Tony Travers of the London School of Economics, a man with the iournalist's essential instinct: he knows how to let a good story tell itself.

RADIO: Peter Barnard on the

end of Thatcher - and the start of a scintillating new series

This week the subject was began with the Westland the poll tax, as all but its inventors called the community charge. This tax, much more than the issue of European integration, was to bring down Margaret Thatcher. on the day Kenneth Baker

We know the story, and it was retold here with admirable clarity through the voices of those who assembled and then disassembled the policy. But I was as much struck by the coincidental messages that were supplied by unrelated events.

The ambition to abolish the rates was announced at the Tory conference in 1984. but wiped off the front pages by the Brighton bomb. At the start of 1986, the Cabinet met to consider the final poll tax proposal, but that meeting

crisis. Thus poll tax discuspictures of houses with sion was truncated (and opponents such as Nigel Lawson silenced) because Michael Heseltine walked out of the Government, And

launch the poll tax, the space shuttle Columbia blew up. People less inward looking than politicians, less obsessed with their own small world, might perhaps have paused to wonder whether three disasters might not be sending a message about a

assembled the press to

Alas. Thatcher had long since become, as someone put it in the programme. captivated by an idea at the expense of political realities". Baker, one of five Environ-

life of the poll tax, had put on slide shows and fancy graphics in a room at Chequers in order to convince Thatcher that the poll tax was a Graphs, bar charts and

ment Secretaries during the

chimneys" were all used to overwhelm the central contradiction of the tax, that a charge imposed by central government as a way of neutering local government would nonetheless be blamed on local councils, not on Whitehall.

But there was, though, a certain symmetry to the whole sad episode. In 1981, Heseltine — the then Environment Secretary - had considered and rejected replacing the rates with the poll

In 1990, Heseltine stood against Thatcher, precipitated the arrival of John Major. and was called into the Cabinet . . . to abolish the politax. Ain't life grand?

THEATRE: No need for a plot in West London; Bukowski, the dead Beat, goes on; Rostand's nose out of joint in India

theatre company" in this country - has

contrived to produce two hours and 45 minutes of multicultural hogwash. It is a

wonder the Indian star, in lucrative

demand in Bombay's film world, has

With the exception of Shah, who interprets with panache the etiolated role

of Cyrano Danmull Barchha. Cyrano is

an embarrassment. With any luck, his

brusque adieu should ensure that the

Since its establishment nearly two

decades ago by the Kenyan-Asian

Verma, Tara has been treated invariably

to cottonwool reviews by the liberal

British critical Establishment. Its formu-

la is predictable and requires little by

bubble of Tara Arts is burst at last.

swallowed this swill for so long.

Chekhov at street level

ort of street you find less and ess in gentrified West condon. In it, you can buy econd-hand hubcaps and heap Indian jewellery, eat aribbean fish stews or overone liver and chips, and see ne ghosts of

ownmarket dramatic characars. The Steptoes drove their orse and cart down it, the amp in Pinter's Caretaker ".umbled along it to "the best - ublic convenience in Sheperd's Bush", and a character 1 Billy Roche's Poor Beast in +'re Rain ran away from eland with her fancy-man. nly to go mad in one of its abby side-streets.

ter of Particular

ے اور میں جے کے کہنے

自秘 默,"本产"。

過過機能 いどうだれ

A 1 84

Andreas (No. 1977) Sept. Sept. 1888

A man of the second

womer of Goldhawk Road and hepherd's Bush itself, is early mindful of its duty to ie street's reputation, for it ave Roche's marvellous play s premiere and is now pre enting a highly enjoyable sece actually named after it. /imon Bent's comedy is set in flat that almost audibly eseeches Hammersmith ouncil to condemn it and settle its motley occupants in tower block in White City.

The Bush, which is on the

reet, house, people - all are seedy disarray. "But there's no plot," wailed friend as we walked down oldhawk Road after the ay. Nor is there, not really. they said the same about nekhov, and the effect here is a Cherry Orchard or Three sters transposed to the orld of Pinter's Homecomg or, again, Caretaker. The aracters even have neonekhovian habits, such as terjecting irrelevant oddities

Goldhawk Road

Bush into the conversation ("If you

stand under a pylon long enough you get leukaemia') and indulging in fin de siècle rumination about the future ("Fifty years from now they'll have found a cure for death"). The legal occupant is Trevor Martin's splendidly lugubrious Paul, a retired coachdriver deep into girlie mags and hypochondria. By way of preparing for death, he has summoned Colin and Reg (John Stimm, Neil Stuke) who may or may not be his longneglected sons. In their wake comes Ralph (Danny Webb), a sort of punk spiv for whom they have been selling pirated

software, and Jack Carr's

John, a former workmate of

I HAVE some very good news for you. Nasecruddin Shah, the silken-skilled

actor from Bombay who has propped up

alone - and for well-nigh three months

- the woeful Cyrano at the National

This latest adaptation of Edmund

Rostand's story, transposed by Jatinder Verma and his Tara Arts group to India in the 1930s, will end its inelegant innings

originally conceived by Verma and the

National, travel on to India itself. Theatregoers there should thank Shah

for his act of theatrical euthanasia. They

should not, however, write to him c/o

It is easy to see why Shah is loath to

tour his homeland with Cyrano and

Theatre, has tired of the production.

Paul's given to making phone-calls to his wife and mistresses from what he swears is the outskirts of Aberdeen.

Bent gives us some alarming insights into the sexual habits of coach-drivers, those Don Juans of the M25, and some entertainingly glum ones into loneliness and ennui. Only when he deals with the wrangles of Paul's matriunhappily married daughter does his writing become predictable and repetitive. Elsewhere, all is fresh and funny enough to leave one accepting, even welcoming, the absence of conventional plot.

Indeed, Bent's point may be that these lost people are incapable of sustaining anything so conventional and actually plans to get Paul to buy his flat from the council at



Jack Carr. woman trouble

the usual discount and then resell it himself at a profit but can so chaotic a criminal bring off such a coup? Lopakhin as failed conman: updated, relocated Chekhov

> BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Carnal porridge AT THIS same theatre a year ago, in a promising first play called Afters, the dead beat

poet Charles Bukowski was reincarnated first as a mouse and then as a human again in order to confront some London bar flies with the poverty of their lives compared to his roister-doistering exploits. Now comes the Way Off Broadway Company from Vancouver to show us some actual Bukowski material, prose and (or so the programme says) poetry, adapted for the stage by Michael Wener, who also directs, and Michael Schaldemose. On the whole, I preferred the mouse.

The pub theatre was packed solid, but most of the audience had probably been lured there by the titles of the two 75minute plays rather than by Bukowski's reputation. Erections, Ejaculations and Exhi-

way of authentic invention. Take a classic

of the Western dramatic canon. "curry it"

line "you know, I do well or the sex quizzes". Good riddance to curried Cyrano

> (as one waspish critic put it), throw in heaps of Urdu dialogue and voild, you have a dashing, Indo-Western theatrical experience (a "post-colonial" Tempest. for example). It has taken our critics 20 years to see through something Shah saw through in no time at all. If adapting a classic does not move it in a meaningful new direction, if the "Indianisation" of a European work does not rise above the level of a mediocre conceit, and if the cast is seldom better than pedestrian, it is time to shout "enough" ... or "bus ho gaya

hai", as Verma would prefer.

Old Red Lion

bitions is the first one, The F Machine the second (this machine does make an appearance at the end, in what is absolutely nothing more than a schoolboy joke).

What the adapters appear to have done is join up some of their author's scattered writings to make patterns that will conjure up Bukowski's sordid world of compulsive drinkers and fantasists, whores and rapists. In the first play we meet the sexually voracious Harry (Schaldemose) selling himself to the even more voracious Connie (Deb Pickman) with the opening

This leads to a repetitious sequence of complaints by him, to her and to us, about what bitches women are, and complaints by her about what a slob Harry is, and how he doesn't do what a woman wants done.

The Machine pattern is a mosaic: fantasies of sexual and murderous aggression. sometimes treated as comedy. that brighten Harry's hobo life. Ian Butcher does sturdy work as a succession of roughs and toughs, but once again i all goes on and on, men coupling with women, with men, with the dead, and finally with that nasty machine. We can have all that sort of thing at home without going to the theatre to see it.

Tunku Varadarajan Jeremy Kingston

THE TIMES

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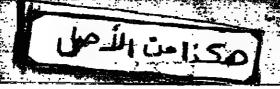
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Tara Arts. .

Chance and circumstance can shape even the greatest of men, Ian McIntyre finds in a new biography of America's 16th President

A convention of biographical writing decrees that authors should profess remorse at what they have inflicted on their families in the course of their unending researches. "For Aida and Bruce." writes David Herbert Donald, "who have had to live with Lincoln for most of their

One feels for them. Lincoln's secretaries may have revered him as "a backwoods Jupiter", but the loth President of the United States. a shambling and uncouth man, was only minimally house-trained. The voice was high and piercing. He was addicted to puns and to stories that were every bit as tall as the famous stove-pipe hat into which he frequently stuck correspondence and documents.

In male company the tone of his anecdotes could veer from the folksy to the scatological. A century on, Lyndon Johnson would certainly have slapped his thigh at the one about the English family who kept a picture of George Washington in their lavatory. "Most appropriate," countered their American guest. "There is Masterly work made from a piece of folly

nothing that will Make an Englishman Shit so quick as the sight of Gen! Washington."

LINCOLN

By David Herbert Donald

Jonathan Cape, £30

And yet to make an interesting narrative of Lincoln's first 50 years would test the skills of a Scheherazade. "Why Scripps," Lincoln said to a journalist keen to write his campaign biography, "it is a great piece of folly to attempt to make anything of my early life." It could, he said, be condensed into one sentence from Gray's Elegy - "The short and simple annals of the

Boldly — possibly rashly — Donald disregards this guidance from the horse's mouth about how to handle the tedious years as carpenter and riverboat man, soldier and postmaster, blacksmith

edges that he has devoted more attention than some earlier biographers to Lincoln's "brain-numbing labor" in his law practice: in consequence we are over a third of the way into this long book before he reaches Washington as Presi-

dent-elect. From 1860 the pace quickens. Within weeks of his election every state of the lower South had taken steps towards secession. Initially Lincoln seemed totally unable to make things go right. Early in 1862 things looked so desperate that he contemplated for the first time the prospect of Confederate success. and spoke of "the bare possibility of our being two nations".

Donald is a highly fastidious

biographer: "In tracing the life of Abraham Lincoln, I have asked at every stage of his career what he knew when he had to take critical actions, how he evaluated the evidence before him, and why he reached his decisions." His ac-



Lincoln as a young lawyer

count is based largely on the President's own words, whether in letters and messages or in conversations recorded by reliable witnesses. Donald's encyclopaedic

literature is deployed only when etters or documents cannot be found elsewhere. The result is a biography written essentially from Lincoln's point of view, using only the information and ideas that were available to him:

Although this is an austere approach, it is a rewarding one, made possible by the availability of the Lincoln Papers in the Library of Congress. After the tenvolume authorised life by Nicolay and Hay appeared in 1890 these papers were sealed until 1947, and were therefore not available to such major biographers as Albert
J. Beveridge, William E. Barton or
Carl Sandburg.
Donald devotes refreshingly lit-

tle space to correcting the errors of previous biographers. Equally commendably, he sets his face against historiographical discus-sion: "This is a book about Lincoln - not a book about the literature

Readers seeking a general hist-ory of the United States during the mid-19th century must accordingly look elsewhere: So must those interested in a detailed account of the Civil War or of the internal affairs of the Confederacy. Donald offers no broad philosophical discussion of the origins of the conflict, and spends little time on the question of whether it was the first modern war. "These are important subjects, but they did not present themselves to Abraham Lincoln in any practical way.".

Donald gives a masterly description. Lincoln's relations with McClellan and later with Grant: the development of his thinking on the Emancipation Proclamation and the ideas and rhetoric of the Gettysburg Address; his campaign for re-election in 1864 and Radical plans to unhorse him - all are passed in

Donald believes that in focusing closely on Lincoln himself - "on what he knew, when he knew it, and why he made his decisions" -he has been led to paint him in different colours from earlier biographers. A less modest man might have said that the colours were not just different, but truer.

He is struck by how often chance played a determining role and emphasises Lincoln's enormous capacity for growth. Most importantly he insists on the essential passivity of Lincoln's nature. Indeed he chooses as an epigraph a sentence from a letter which convinces him that this was a trait which Lincoln recognised in himself: "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that

events have controlled me." After half a century of Lincoln studies. Donald does not believe in doing his readers' work for them. Like all the best biographies, this finely written book seeks to explain rather than to judge. What it explains is how one of the least experienced and most poorly prepared men ever elected to high office became the greatest American President.

He mounted the warrior's steed

t the time Lloyd George formed his coalition Government at the end of 1916, Britain was in far greater peril than most people real-ised. Still facing the combined German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires with their interior lines, Britain was running out of manpower. shipping, food and cash. Its principal allies, France and Russia, were even more gravely weakened.

Soon matters became much worse, as Germany declared unrestricted U-boat warfare, Russia's effective participation in the war was brought to an end by revolution, and the French Army, after another failed offensive, was struck by mutinies. On the credit side America entered the war, but in such a state of military unpreparedness that it would be a long time before there could be any significant consequences on the Western front. where the war had to be decided. Britzin's contribution was, therefore, more essential than ever, but in early 1917 its ability to survive seemed increasingly doubtful. Stocks of which had been enough to last 14 weeks when Lloyd George took office, had fallen to nine weeks' supply by mid-April.

formation of his Government. and before the Americans ence in Europe, the enemy empires had collapsed and the war was won. How much of this astonishing reversal of fortune was due to Lloyd George himself? In what sense was he, as David French says. "the indispensable man necessary to win the war?

French is a penetrating ana-

lyst and judicious in his asssments. He is by no means blind to Lloyd George's faults and does not oversimplify the merits of his Government. He doubts, for instance, that the small War Cabinet Lloyd George set up "enhanced the efficiency of central govern-

ment to any great extent". He did, however, make a number of vital appointments, among which that of Sir Joseph Maciay as Shipping Control ler was perhaps the most vital. Maclay was a strong advocate of the convoy system, as was the Secretary of the War Cabinet, Sir Maurice Hankey. Lloyd George was not immedlately converted to the idea. but once he was the results were decisive. Without accepting the too dramatic story that he imposed the system out-right when he visited the Admiralty on April 30, 1917, French considers that the Admiralty would have taken even longer to agree to it "without the Prime Minister's overt

However, he insists that convoys and the Govern-

THERE are botanical gardens older and more beautiful than

the Royal Botanic Gardens at

Kew. And yet Kew beside the Thames, shattered by the

planes winging in and out of

Heathrow, enjoys a special reputation. Partly it is ad-

mired as a scientific institution

established two centuries ago

by the admirable Sir Joseph

Banks for the study of the

world's flora. But Kew also

enjoys the peculiar status of a national institution, a place people care about without

A definitive history of the

Royal Botanic Gardens is sure

to find eager readers. Des-

mond's account is first-class,

packed with detail yet clear

and written with the sober

authority of a former librarian

of Kew. Particularly enjoyable

are the chapters describing the

gardens' early 18th-century or-

igins as a colony for royal

German immigrants, Queen

Caroline, her reviled heir

Prince Frederick, and his wife,

Princess Augusta. Undeterred

by the dead flat, sandy banks

of the Thames, they hired Sir

William Chambers and

"Capability" Brown to make

gardens on two contiguous

rural estates, out of which by

slow stages were formed the

Kew as a place to see exotic

plants dates to 1758, after

Prince Frederick was killed by

a cricket ball. After his death,

Augusta and her fascinating

friend Lord Bute united to

make a botanic garden for "all

public gardens of today.

necessarily knowing why.

COALITION 1916-1918 By David French Clarendon Press, £40

did less to avert defeat than the

Above all. French argues that Lloyd George "saw more

policymaker the intimate confor allowing the battle to be launched, but why he did not nection between strategy and national morale". Hence his at least try to stop it before its terrible last phase, at Passchendaele, is never adedesire for relatively cheap success in the Levant (which he achieved), and his relucquately explained. it was quite right, in French's view, that British tance to commit the British Army to any further grandiose offensives in the West. Unformanpower was conserved tunately his mistaken support during the ensuing winter. He supports Lloyd George on that for the French General Nivelle at the beginning of 1917, and

issue, and does not blame him for the initial success of the German offensive in the spring of 1918. When victory for the Allies followed between August and November, it took everybody by surprise, sol-diers and civilians alike. Lloyd George's first instinct was to carry the war into Germany and make sure that the victory was unmistakable. "If peace were made now," he said Battle of Ypres. He is convincpresciently on October 13, "in ing on Lloyd George's reasons

20 years' time the Germans would say what Carthage had said about the First Punic War...that by better preparation and organisation they would be able to bring about victory next time." But the supposed cost of prolonging the war, together with other factors, resulted in what French sees as a premature armistice. This, rather than Versailles, may have been what caused all the sacrifice of

the Great War to be wasted. French's valuable work deserves a wider readership than it is likely to have. Produced at a deterrent price, it is also presented in a severely academic mode, with references cluttering almost every page. But no one with a serious interest in the subject can

afford to miss it. dignation Meetings to demand Thistleton-Dyer remove the boundary wall. The direc-tor actually rebuilt it higher. claiming the need to stop gardeners legging it across to the public houses.

A PARTICULARLY interesting part of the book is devoted garden for the Empire, her botanists profoundly chang-ing the agricultural economies of large tracts of the globe. At somewhat, despite the bright tally of improvements, expansion. Kew's first television commercial in 1994, and the inevitable mission statement.

An appendix reveals some ominous figures. The Edwardian era was a golden time for Kew Gardens. In 1915, there were more than four million visitors. Then admission charges were introduced, figures dropped dramatically and have in most years been around one million. Recently, numbers have dipped considerably below, so despite its hallowed reputation, Kew does not seem particularly popular. Is it the cost, an entry charge of £4 — an increase of 800 per cent since 1987? Or does the explanation lie deeper? One is left wondering if in a century's time. Princess Augusta's dream will have lost the power to lure people from their own exotic gardens and conservatories to the palm houses and rockeries beside the Thames.

Poetry that order breeds

n one of his most memorable poems. Roy Fuller reflects on a photograph of the elderly Brahms perusing a score of Wagner's. The composer's equalimity appears unshaken. And yet, Fuller wonders, "how can he not be falling back aghast/ At the chromatic spectrum of decay,/ Starting to destroy already/ His classical universe?

Fuller, like Brahms, was a man who needed order. Tidy minded and fastidious in his dress, he lived in a suburban bungalow and worked for most of his life as a building society solicitor. The American poet Wallace Stevens another of Fuller's heroes and himself a man of affairs famously wrote of the artist's rage for order". Those who have read Fuller at any length may be forgiven for thinking that, except at his rare best, he had order all right but was somewhat short on rage. A preoccupation with the quotidan can be merely mundane. Deflate the mighty line and you may have nothing to show for it but flamess.

These impressions have been revived by the appearthe poet's death -- of this critical biography. It says much for the author that, if he cannot remove such reservations, he does much to modify

Clive Wilmer

ROY FULLER Writer and Society By Neil Poweli Caroanet, £25

them and much to increase one's sympathy for Fuller. He that might be overlooked; and his re-evaluation of Fuller's 11 novels persuades me that these have been unjustly neglected. Acute and judicious. he is as unafraid of severity as of enthusiasm and has an unfailing eye for the telling

The book belongs, in short, to a threatened species: intelligent nonacademic criticism. As such, it exemplifies the best of the values Fuller himself championed. Though he moved in the course of his life from wild Left to respectable Centre, Fuller was consistent in defending what Powell calls "a culturally enabling socialism": a belief in the democratisation and preservation of high culture. In his last years he accepted the responsibility of making this case in public, first as Oxford Professor of Poetry, and then when his orderly skills were called upon by public bodies such as the Poetry Book Society, the BBC and the Arts

Council. Powell succeeds in making this last phase as absorbing as anything in Fuller's life - as his wartime experience in East Africa or his dotty northern childhood, spent drifting with a widowed mother between seaside hotels. As biography, the book works best when a larger glimpse of society is included. Where more intimate relationships are concerned, there are odd lacunae. One would like to know more about Fuller's family. His wife, in particular, is never described and we are not even told exactly how he met her. But it is a relief to read a new biography that has no need for sensational revelations. Fuller, always a reticent man, would have been pleased.

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THE STRATEGY OF THE LLOYD GEORGE

gramme, though important, policy of reducing imports and concentrating shipping on the shortest routes, particularly the Atlantic. Either way, Lloyd George's measures certainly saved the country and with it the Allied cause

clearly than any other British

his bungled attempt to put Haig under Nivelle, deprived him of moral authority, and to some extent of self-confidence, in dealing with Haig later that year. French takes this and Other factors fully into account in seeking to explain Lloyd George's failure to prevent one of the war's most ghastly attritional struggles, the third

Augusta's paradise preserved for all

Patricia Morison

The History of the Royal Botanic Gardens By Ray Desmond Harvill, £25

the known plants on earth". Ah, the confidence of the agel Even now, Kew grows only 10 per cent of the world's known flora. Happily, it still has a ginkgo planted by Princess Augusta, and Chambers's outrageous Pagoda, minus its glittering dragon finials could this be another use for National Lottery money? In the last war, the RAF cut holes in every floor and dropped model bombs through, to get a 100-foot vertical drop.

Kew's toiling gardeners hardly feature in the book, the focus instead being on the great directors, Banks, William and Joseph Hooker and, in the 1890s, the autocratic Thistleton-Dyer who finally drove the gardeners to revolt. These directors needed to be fighters because the Royal Botanic Gardens led such a shaky existence and twice in the last century would have



Frozen serenity: Kew's Palm House and lake in winter

foundered, save for directorial obduracy. Kew's critics were legion and included scientists angered by its dog-in-themanger attitude to plants, Treasury officials, and the ambitions of the British Museum and Royal Horicultural Society. Journalists sniped that Kew's floral beds were too gaudy, or not gaudy enough.

Men of science and morality, Kew's directors generally viewed the public as the enemy. What had the higher realms of botany to do with nursemaids pushing peram-

bulators? In Kew's woods and ditches, the poor got up to worse things than children's games. Thistleton-Dyer was plagued by a Mrs Wheatstone who ran a brothel beside the herbarium, then a tea-shop at Kew Palace lodge. Even in Princess Augusta's time, the public were allowed free into the Botanic collection, if respeciably dressed (no coloured neckties). But access to the

whole gardens, opening

hours, and where the gates

should be, were all hotly

disputed, Residents held In-

teed

he story is as old as man, and man is old on Orkney. Four thousand years ago the megalith-raisers left their mark there; the Orkneyinga Saga survives, a vessel for the tales of Norse blood-feuds. All had their storytellers, and now Orkney has George Mackay Brown.

His is a difficult task, one made the harder by what he calls the "basilisk stare of newsprint, radio, television". Yet, for more than 40 years he has persevered, writing still by hand, publishing steadily if sometimes unevenly plays and novels, stories, poems. Epitomising Kant's dictum that the greatest journey a man can make is the fourney inside his own head. Mackay Brown has left Orkney only once since the 1950s, when he studied under Edwin Muir in Edinburgh. This collection of 18

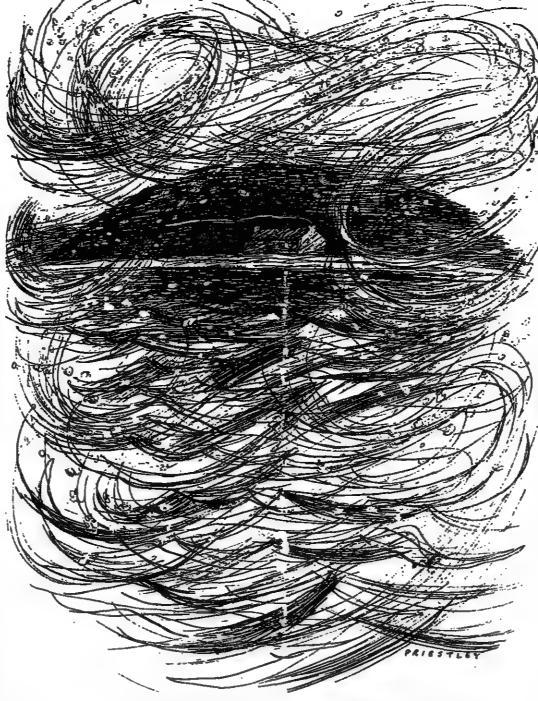
Ross Leckie

WINTER TALES By George Mackay Brown John Murray, E15.99

short stories written over the last 20 years shows that it is not dull to have Orkney in the blood; it is to

have the elemental. Just as the islands of which he sometimes seems a rocky outcrop have no trees, Mackay Brown's stories lack as much as they contain. There is almost no emotion before Mackay Brown's chthonian deities. There is only sea and wind and life and death and earth. These stories are threnodies and elegies for many things that were, and might have been, and some that might yet be.

The prose reflects these themes. Though finely wrought, there is about it a deliberate and beguiling unease. It is clipped and stripped, lapidary, heavily end-stopped. But then it is suddenly epic, resonating the oral tradition that these stories manage to make quite their own. We have the "star-thronged wheel of darkness", a "deep-cargoed ship", the Homeric "winged word". Then lavishly Mackay Brown puts his ears back and the dark powers he would master sing: "That year, the elements of sun and rain and wind were so exquisitely measured and scattered upon the furrows that



sown with barley and oats had shallow pools of green soon and then the sloping rectangles were all green, all crammed with murmurings and whisperings in the way-

But man in these stories is a cipher, and a generation but a slow ponderous wave of time". A consistent theme is eventual light in the darkness. At its best, as in Ikey, this is moving. At its worst, as in The Architect or The Road to Emmaus, it becomes only a rather laboured manifestation of a convert's own Catholicism. We miss the tragedy of many men's preferences for the dark. Differently and secularly handled, it can be compelling. The Sons of Upland Farm is almost unbearably painful before a revelation, a story stark then starthing in its profundity.

Yet ciphers these characters remain. Only in the poetry of R. S. Thomas is such bleakness elsewhere to be found. People are vanity. When they are not indigenous islanders, they are puppers before Mackay Brown's incluctable and atavistic gods,

o, in *The Woodcarver*, is the laird of the island no more than a symbol for "a progressive young man newly out of Cambridge"; in *I* bey you think that Dr Aeneas Giles Logan has escaped stereotype - until, inevitably, he too contributes to Mackay Brown's reientless whole: "We all

fire," he says. "We get shaken back into them in the end."

This is dangerous ground. If these stories are to succeed, they must rise from the parochial and touch the universal. Nova Scotia, not Orkney, is Alasdair MacLeod's point of departure in his collection of stories, The Lost Salt Gift of Blood, that now defines this genre. Mackay Brown may fall short of that mark, but he brings us very, very close. In Sophocles' Ajax, a play of which Mackay Brown's Dr Logan would approve, Ajax says: "I see that we are, all of us, mere shadows, phantoms of nothing." With Winter Tales, Mackay Brown has transcended Orkney, and placed a boulder on that larger.

Derwent May on the witty stories of Julian Barnes

More than just Sleeve notes

pleasure to be had from this first collection of Barnes. But the blurb is slightly misleading. "No one has a better perspective to see things from both sides of the Channel than Barnes," it says.

But I remember the opening paragraph of Barnes's article on the Channel Tunnel, in his volume of Letters from London written for The New Yorker. There he describes how Flaubert's character Bouvard, on learning that an earthquake might cause Britain and France to tumble into each other, runs away in terror - not of the cataclysm, but of the idea of the British coming nearer. These ten stories are about the British in France - a view from one side. The French, like Bouvard, seem mostly to have fled from them.

They are also stories of a very distinct character. They range from the 17th to the 21st century, defining moments when typical British folk had for may be expected to have) a presence in France. There is very little individual emotion or drama in them. They delicately, and often wittily, re-create with all its flavour a passage of social history.
The first story. Interference, is

about a vain, bad-tempered Eng-lish composer who has isolated himself in a French village in the early 1930s. Art, he believes, justifies him in total egoism. He has alienated all the villagers, yet has to persuade them to turn off their various electrical machines to prevent interference when he wants to hear his works being broadcast on the BBC from London. There are numerous perfect period touches, such as his description of the conductor Adrian Boult as his "young champion". He dies one afternoon when his last work is being performed, and his wife has ailed to alert the baker and butcher and farmers in time for them to switch off.

The whole story turns deftly and elegantly on this witty idea. yet the composer hardly seems an individual. He is like an intricate shell, perfectly reflecting a stage in its inhabitant's evolution, but without the inhabitant inside.

CROSS CHANNEL **By Julian Barnes** Jonathan Cape, £13.99

Other stories have similar strengths and weakness. Experiment is about the narrator's Uncle Freddy, a traveller for genuine wax polish who went to France for a motor rally in 1928 and got caught up with the Surrealists. This was because he said in a bar that he travelled in "Cire realiste" — or, perhaps, when asked why he was there. said "Je suis, sire, rallyiste". Or maybe he even said, talking of the white wine he was drinking, "Je



Barnes: resonant fragments

suis sur Reuillys". A brilliant trio of puns - quite surrealist themselves — but the subsequent story of how his new friends tested out whether he could distinguish blindfold between an Englishwoman and a Frenchwoman is just an ingenious piece of reconstruction of that milieu.

One of the very best stories is Hermitage, about two English women friends in the 1890s who buy a run-down château and vineyard in the Medoc. Their relationship, with its Victorian mixture of frankness and primness, is touchingly sketched, but once again the real interest lies in the account of the place and the time - the grape varieties being used, the varied reactions to the phylloxera menace, the other grape diseases (on which we get an entertaining but encyclopaedic paragraph). The descriptions are

the vineyards running across the land "like green corduroy", a blister "like a broad bean" — but I could not help wondering if it was not my own visits to the Médoc that made the story especially enjoyable for me, just as Brambilla, about the Tour de France, might especially please cyclists with its anecdores.

There is only one story here that really grips by its tension and anguish — Dragons, which is about the persecution of the Protestants in the south of France 350 years ago, with an exiled Irish soldier among the savage persecutors.

In the last story, an ageing author is travelling to France by Eurostar early in the next century. This - we are led to suppose is an oblique self-portrait by Barnes. He is a rather Kingsley Amis-like character here (though Amis would never have gone to France), testily but self-mockingly fussing about the correct use of language. He hints at the way in which characters he meets on the train turn into characters in his stories, and offers a profession of faith: he is obsessed, he says, with the recalling of "distant truths", and his art is dedicated to that recall by means of the "resonant

The best of all the stories here, Evermore, shares that preoccupation with remembering. A woman has spent her life going to France again and again, visiting the sites of First World War battles, after her brother was killed in the trenches. Barnes goes deeply into her feelings -her dislike of the wording on the memorials, the way her grief changes over time, her fears of the war being obliterated in mankind's memory.

Yet even here, the emotion is in danger of being swamped by the historical facts. The lengthy accounts of the battlefields and graveyards could practically serve as a guide-book for visitors (and would give the famous New Yorker fact-checkers a terrible time). If his old friend Martin Amis had not already used the title The Information for his latest novel, it would have been a perfectly appropriate one for

The bitter sound of truth

THOMAS BERNHARD loathed Austria. Contempt for his compatriots and disgust at the State they inhabited were passions that sustained him throughout his life, and seemingly beyond. When he died in 1989, he left a will forbidding publication or performance of his works in his native land, and rejecting in advance any efforts the Austrian republic might make at posthumous rapprochement with one of its most eminent opponents.

There was more to this, of course, than simple loathing. There may once have been an Austria Bernhard loved, but the Austria he lived in had destroyed it. From the mid-1950s he laid bare that destruction in novels, short stories, poems, polemics and plays. In the bleak comedy of Extinction - his last novel, published in German in 1986 and now defuly rendered into English by David McLintock -Bernhard's reckoning with Austria finds one of its most compelling forms.

There is autobiography in all of Bernhard's fiction, just

ince Evelyn Waugh first took a caustic look at the

funeral parlours in The Loved

One, novelists have regarded

the death business as a fit

subject for comedy. Not many

pull it off as well as Lily Brett. Her heroine, Esther Zepler, is

the daughter of two Polish

survivors of Auschwitz.

Brought up in Australia, but

now resettled in New York with her own family, Esther

makes her living as a freelance

writer of obituaries. Her earn-

ings pass straight through her hands into those of the obliga-

Unsurpringly, considering her ghoulish profession, she

has a morbid fascination with

death. Every day an editor's

phone call informs her of

another potential candidate

for the mortician's slab, and

she sets to work on an advance

obituary notice for the

morgue. Many hours are

spent at memorial services.

and in comforting grieving widows. For light reading, she

chooses books on the Holo-

caust or suicide, and when a

friend makes a passing refer-

ence to Jayne Mansfield, Es-

ther recalls how the actress

tory New York shrink.

of American

as there is fiction in his autobiographical works. Real names are put to creative use. Living people are thinly disguised (too thinly, Bernhard's publishers and their lawyers discovered more than once). Identifiable places and buildings become symbols, the monumental repositories

where history takes shape. Ian Brunskill And above all. there is in EXTINCTION

Bernhard's protagonists something of Bernhard himself: sickly, obses-

wordily introspective to the point almost of madness; consumed by violent hatreds. Franz-Josef Murau, narrator of Extinction, is typical. Superfluous younger son of wealthy parents, he resides in Rome, an unorthodox teacher of German literature. The whole of his existence, he tells his sole pupil, Gambetti, has been nothing more than "a struggle to throw off the disease of

hard, Austria is and always will be an "essentially Natchangeable. The country's tainted past and corrupt present are concentrated in the buildings and occupants of the

For Murau, as for Bern-

Murau family estate at Wolfsegg. (Schloss Wolfsegg — Wolfsegg — though not this Schloss Wolfs-By Thomas Bernbard Quartet, £16

egg — exists: near Bernhard's several homes in Upper Austria, it recurs in his work from

the early 1960s.) Murau wants nothing of Wolfsegg and what it represents, but he gets it all regardless. A car crash kills his father, mother and elder brother, forcing him to confront his poisoned inheritance. maddening, unparagraphed monologue that interweaves the threads of his troubled life:

ture and history, politics and poetry, philosophy and art.

Almost inadvertently, from the depths of his self-absorp-Murau conjures a detailed world and a vivid supporting cast — a weak father and monstrous mother; two unloved, unlovely sisters; cosmopolitan Uncle Georg: huntsmen and gardeners; the sinister archbishop Spadolini; the poet Maria (who owes something to Ingeborg Bachmann); a portly, vulgar maker of wine-corks from Freiburg. All, like Murau himself, are viewed with cruel detachment - and who knows how much cruel distortion?

MURAU'S aim, and Bernhard's, is to come to terms with what has made him what he is, and to destroy it. Murau, like Bernhard, will call his count Extinction, "because in it I intend to extinguish everything: everything I record will be entinguished". It is a grim and grotesque endeavour, accomplished with savage

Working the graveyard shift

Lois Rathbone JUST LIKE THAT

By Lily Brett André Deutsch, £15.99

crash: "It was a pretty dramat-

ic way to go."
The tone, though, is one of relentless comedy and the story rattles along, with good doses of humour of the Woody Allen variety. Food and formication are the two things which take Esther's mind off work, and there are some graphic descriptions of both. A green salad in a hip, down-town restaurant is likely to be composed of oak leaves, dandelions and nasturtiums: Melbourne was overrun with nasturtiums and dandelion

Brett invents a fine supporting cast of family and friends.

leaves, and we're paying ten

bucks a plate for them in



Brett: death and survival

There is Edek, Esther's quarrelsome father, who has a frail grasp of the English language, spite half a century spent in Australia. With Edek, healthy becomes "heltzy", licence be-comes "licen", and when he is overcharged by the local garage, he muses philosophically: "It's a highway, so they robbed it." Esther's best friend

powered lawyer, pregnant with fraternal twins, of which one, both or neither may conceivably be the offspring of her lover not her husband. She is a woman of terrifying verbal indiscretion, given to discussing vaginas and haemorr-holds in the middle of crowded restaurants. And there is Sean, Esther's husband. Considering the parallels between the author's life and that of her heroine, it comes as no surprise that Sean follows the same profession as Bretr's own husband, David Rankin, an Australian painter. Sean is portrayed with such affection have been intended as a love letter to the ideal husband.

y only quibble is with the title. Perhaps in Australia. where the novel was first published, the phrase "just like that has no connotations: but for British readers, an unwanted image of Tommy Cooper springs to mind each time one contemplates the

Lois Rathbone is on the obitu-

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How to avoid foreign jails

THE Foreign Office has come sorts and on off-shore islands up with an idea which, when fully developed, could benefit every holidaymaker and might preserve the liberty and even the lives of a few.

Consular departments around the world are constantly being asked to solve the problems of holidaymakers who get into trouble through ignorance of the country they are visiting.

The idea is to produce a video outlining what to do and what not to do, what precautions to take and what to expect on arrival. Eventually it may be possible to show a different video in-flight for



Travel Business HARVEY ELLIOTT

each destination. The first experimental video, concentrating on the dangers of drugtaking, could be made specifically for tourists to Thailand.

The Foreign Office already issues blunt warnings about the dangers of becoming implicated in the drugs trade, even innocently, in Thailand. At least 21 Britons are in jail on drugs charges in the country. many more have been fined or deported and others are await-

ing trial. The Thai authorities are themselves determined to ciamo down on drugs and police keep close watch on the crowds of backpackers in re-

"If we just managed to make one person think again, or opened the eyes of someone to the potential dangers, it would all he worthwhile," said an insider at the FO.

So far, there has been little response from the airlines, or from the tour operators, who have hinted that it might upset their passengers to be given such a stark warning at the start of their holidays.

A video produced by a car hire company which warns of the potential dangers of driving through Florida is now being shown on Britannia Airways flights. But it was so watered down after tour operators complained that it was "alarmist", that it is now little more than a "how to drive in the US" guide.

The Foreign Office issues regular advisory notes about countries in which travellers might expect to find unusual problems, either involving internal strife, crime or natural disasters. These are circulated to travel agents and tour operators but are too rarely seen by the customers.

How much better if these were given a professional polish by a film company and then shown on every screen during the flight. They are much more likely to be of use than the liferaft under your seat and would show that the airlines and the tour operators do have some concern about the dangers which might con-

front their clients. For once the FO has got it absolutely right and the sooner its idea is put into practice



مكذا من الأصل

Children's club dangers

Mediterranean resorts are potentially dangerous, badly run and ill-equipped, according to a new report by Holiday

Some children are given little to do while crammed into bars in which the exits have been blocked. Others can run unsupervised across busy roads, says the Consumers'

Association magazine A quarter of the 36 clubs inspected last summer in Majorca, the Algarve and Corfu. had safety problems, they

"Our investigation, with the help of a childcare expert reveals a dismal picture of By HARVEY ELLIOTT

appeared to have shocked

forced them to review the

back to the clubs which have

been criticised to ensure they

are never used again if what

the magazine's inspectors found was typical," said Len

Mooney, the Overseas Prod-

facilities on offer.

tour operators and

child-minding services pre-sented as fun-packed clubs." the Airtours club dash across the road in front of moving they say. "Most disturbing, in traffic. two cases there were scrious salety problems: an overcrowded Majorcan bar with

blocked fire exits was used for a children's 'pirate retreat' and another Majorcan bar used for a children's disco had sheer drops from wide-open At Messonghi Beach in

Corfu, clubs run by Airrours. Sunworld, Cosmos and First Choice were held on a pavement next to a service road and Holiday Which? claim that they saw children from

WORLDWIDE

uct Director of Surworld. We were very concerned about the criticism made of

our clubs as they are very important to us," said a spokesman for First Choice. The magazine's criticism which included a description We are going back to the area of one widely-used club as and investigating in detail." having "all the charm and Airtours, too, said that they would drop any children's clubs which did not come up to personality of a bomb shelter"

scratch.

Thomson, however, said that the findings were at odds with their own consumer research, "Our customers clearly don't share the CA's views, but we are investigating in-depth the issues which were raised in the report," said a

EC plans cheap trips for oldies

BRITISH pensioners could soon be eligible for cut-price, heavily subsidised holidays are 60 million people over the throughout Europe. Harvey

Details of the scheme known as "social tourism" are being examined by a small EC working party in Brussels and will be put to European tourism ministers next month. The plans are being spearheaded by Spain, which has run Inserso, a similar scheme, for ten years and which has

enabled three million pensioners to take cheap holidays. Now an audit by the accountants Price Waterhouse has shown that the scheme helps to keep open hotels which would otherwise be closed during the winter, keeps old people fitter, and at the same time saves Spain millions of

unemployment benefits.

Britain is so far refusing to back the proposal, but the Labour Party is anxious to examine it further. "It is a very exciting idea and one which should be considered both in Britain- and Europe as a whole," said Nigel Griffiths, Labour's tourism spokesman.

pesetas in social security and

Under the existing Inserso scheme, now being adopted by Portugal and soon to be taken up independently by other European states, elderly people are entitled to massive discounts on holidays taken outside the main holiday

The state pays a total of £42 million towards the holidays, an average of £90 per pensioner. Each holidaymaker then pays up to £120 for an all-inclusive week in a hotel. Eduardo Gamero, the direc-

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age of 60 in the Community. many of whom are below the poverty line and never take a holiday. There are also hundreds of hotels which are closed during the off-peak gives pensioners a chance to enjoy a break but, if it were generally accepted, would help the tourism industry

throughout Europe." Roger de Haan, the chairman of Saga Holidays, the British tour operator which has virtually cornered the "grey" market, is enthusiastic about the idea. "Forty per cent of people over the age of 60 now never travel and if there was some means of targeting the less well-off it would improve the quality of life of the elderly."

A European-wide confer-ence aimed at producing a detailed proposal for ministers to consider concluded that: turn its back on this opportunity to create employment without requiring additional funding that also considerably improves the wellbeing of the elderly population."

Britain remains officially sceptical of the scheme, however, because it claims it is designed mainly to benefit Mediterranean countries with a natural tourism infrastruc-

"I can see how thousands of British pensioners would want to flock to Spanish beaches, but I can't see the Spanish wanting to come to our seaside in February." said

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Eurostar cuts Paris fare to £69

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE price of a return Eurostar rail ticket to Paris tumbled to £69 this week to mark the start of high-speed train services from Ashford International station in Kent.

The new fare, which is available to passengers on the day of travel, brings the cost of journeys to Paris in line with tickets on the less popular Brussels route. Paris had previously been £7 more expensive than the Belgian capital at £76. The only requirement is that passengers stay at least one Saturday night or three other nights in Paris. The day return price remains at £95.

The new fare, which is almost certain to be followed by further reductions this year as competition with the airlines intensifies, came the day after the start of Eurostar services from Ashford. The new 1996 Eurostar timetable shows nine departures a day from the Kent terminal, five to Paris and four to Brussels, with seven inbound services from the Continent.

The new timetable brings the centre of the French capital within a two-hour train ride for passenger starting their journeys in Ashford with trips to Brussels taking two and a quarter hours. Prices are the same as for departures from London.

The timetable also features a new early morning departure for Paris aimed at the business market. It leaves Waterloo International at 6.19am, calls at Ashford an hour later and arrives in Paris

CUSTOMERS are the big-

gest winners as rail and terry operators slash prices

in the battle for business on

routes across the English

Channel, the Irish Sea and

Ferry companies' profits

slumped in 1995 after the

opening of the Channel

Tunnel despite an increase of 7 per cent in passenger traffic - 13.5 million return

journeys were made on

Eurostar applied more

pressure this week by cut-

ting its cheapest fare. (The

cheapest British Airways

World Offer fare is £66.60.)

And Le Shuttle has extend-

ed a 20 per cent discount

offer for travel up to 60 days in advance until March 31.

from a new ferry operator.

Sea France, on the Dover-

Calais route. Brittany Fer-

ries is offering 25 per cent

There is also competition

58,000 Channel crossings

the North Sea.

Ferries declare war

BY STEVE KEENAN

9 4 X C171 481 992

Gard du Nord at 10.24am. It is aimed at countering criticism from British business executives that Eurostar could not deliver them to Paris in time for morning meetings.

European Passenger Services (EPS), the operator of Eurostar, is in the vanguard of the movement to bring British clocks in line with the Continent, partly because its early morning services would become far more competitive with the airlines (see below).

The opening of Ashford marks the start of a crucial year for Eurostar. The next 12 months will see the future ownership of EPS decided by the Government and the start of through trains to the provinces of Britain. Direct services from Paris

and Brussels to Birmingham and Manchester and Glasgow on the West Coast main line and to Edinburgh on the East Coast main line are expected to commence this summer. Testing of the Eurostar trains that will be used for these services has already started, although the timetable has been set back by the recent strikes in France.

However, the schedule for the introduction of overnight services from London and the regions to France, Belgium, Germany and Holland, has been more seriously delayed because the sleeper trains are now not expected to be delivered by Metro Cammell, their manufacturer, in time for the original planned starting date later this year.

off bookings made before

January 31 for any journey

this year. This reduces the

price of the Portsmouth-

Caen crossing in August for

a car and up to eight passengers from £273 to £204.75.

Stena Line is offering a

20 per cent discount to

Calais, Dieppe, Cherbourg

and Hook of Holland for

bookings made by January

31. Hoverspeed is cutting 60

per cent off its price for

Dover-Calais for bookings

Stena is also offering a 20

per cent discount on the

Fishguard-Rosslare route

across the Irish Sea, forcing

ings made by January 31.

£385 in peak season.

made by February 28.



Direct rail journeys from London to Disneyland Paris could be running by summer

Disney launches Waterloo link

EURO DISNEY is planning to run a direct Eurostar rail service from Waterloo to its French theme park, now

known as Disneyland Paris. The service, using special trains featuring Disney characters, is part of a major promotional push by the theme park, including a new television campaign which starts next month.

Last week the company opened its first dedicated UK reservations office. "We expect calls to reach 5,000 a day once the television advertising starts," says Mr William Jones, the managing director for Disneyland Paris in

Negotiations to operate the rail link are still taking place with Eurostar, but Disney is confident that it will be able to start selling rail packages after Easter, with the service likely to start midsummer. At present, Disney-bound

Irish Ferries to cut its passengers on the Brussels return fare on the same run Eurostar have to change at from £328 to £258 for book-Lille to catch a high-speed North Sea Ferries has TGV train to the theme park, so the new direct link will cut cut the cost of a cabin and car for four from £506 to the journey time significantly. Euro Disney expects to have sufficient demand to charter

By DAVID CHURCHILL

the trains from Eurostar, enabling it to "customise" each service with Disney characters. The frequency and cost of the service has yet to be

Mr Jones is optimistic that the theme park will continue to make the progress of last year when the number of visitors rose 25 per cent to 10.7 million. This was helped by admission price cuts and the opening of the Space Moun-tain rollercoaster ride. He reports that the current promotional offer, which enables children to travel and stay free when accompanied by adults, has meant weekend bookings from the UK until Easter are almost full.

Major developments this year will focus on the Festival Disney entertainment complex rather than the theme park itself. Festival Disney is due to open a Planet Holly-wood restaurant later this year, along with an eightscreen cinema. A new show to alternate with the popular Buffalo Bill dinner attraction is also being considered. This year's Disney animated film,

The Hunchback of Notre Dame, will also be premiered in Paris.

But while Euro Disney has apparently shrugged off its early problems, a report into European theme parks suggests that many smaller continental parks suffered last year from the impact of the long. hot summer. William Richards, director

of the travel consultancy Tourism Research and Marketing which has just published its sixth annual report on international theme parks. says: While the overall number of theme park visitors rose in Europe last year because of the opening of Port Aventura in Spain — it attracted some 2.7 million visitors — the yearon-year trading for a number of marks, especially in the Benelux countries, was down because the hot weather kent

people away."

Many UK theme and leisure parks reportedly faced similar problems, especially those based near seaside resorts or with a significant number of indoor attractions. * International Theme Parks is av-

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

Details: 01306 744477.

CI FLORIDA Magic is offer-

ing free child places on some holidays until February 4.

providing each child is ac-

companied by two adults. They will pay from £339 per

person for return flights.

three nights at a Best West-

hotel chain owned by Whit-

bread, yesterday opened its

100th UK hotel on the water-

front at Salford Quays, Man-

awards. Room rates at the

hotel, part of the Island

Outpost group of Caribbean and Fiorida hotels, start at

- FLIGHTS

Air from next Thursday until

SKI holiday bargains and information on late bookings available from more than 20 tour operators are being collated by Connect France, which promises discounts of up to 40 per cent and £200 this month. Details: 0500

☐ A WEEK in Majorca for £99, leaving Cardiff Airport on Monday is available from Cosmos. A formight costs £40 more. Details: 0161-480

☐ MIDDLE EAST city breaks are being offered by Kuoni, including Cairo for three nights for £385 per person and Dubai for £485.

TWO-FOR-ONE discount

hotel near Grand Central

station. Two people sharing

a double room and staying at

person a night and include

champagne and a rose on

arrival, dinner and a CD

coupons at top New York attractions - including the In-trepid Sea, Air and Space featuring favourite love Museum — are included in a Best of New York package at songs. Details: 0345 581595. □ TRAVEL INN, the budget the 1,400-room Grand Hyatt

least two nights will pay \$199 a night. The package in-cludes a champagne Sunday brunch. Details: 0345 581666. chester. The 52-room hotel has a fixed rate of E35.50 a room a night. Next door is a Beefeater restaurant and pub. Details: 01582 414341. □ EVEN though St Valentine's Day is midweek this year, Hilton National is offer-DJAKE'S HOTEL on Jaing "treat the one you love" maica's south coast has been weekend breaks immediately before and after Pebruary 14 at 25 of its UK hotels. Rates start at £59.50 a voted the "best hotel under £100 a night" in the 1996 Tatler Cunard travel guide

AUSTRAVEL is offering flights to Perth for £449 return from Manchester on January 18 and Gatwick on January 25. Details: 0171-734

☐ TRAVEL Warehouse is offering a return to Tokyo for £588 until the end of February. Flights are with Air France with connections from Heathrow, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Manchester. Details: 0171-414

□ PASSENGERS booking full-fare economy and business-class tickets with Gulf

NEWCOMER Sea France,

the end of February will be upgraded at no extra cost. Details: 0171-408 1717.

UNITED's "Fare of the Year" promotion provides a return busin**ess clas**s flight from London to New York or Washington for El,996, a saving of £350. Details: 0181-990 9900.

☐ AIR UK has extended the

validity of its £299 three-day and £249 day return tickets between Stansted and Copen-

FERRIES

has a "Discovery" tariff, until March 31, of £90 return ☐ HOVERSPEED has a Dover-Caiais for a car and two passengers. The fare standby fare, until January includes a £45 voucher to-31, on its Dover-Calais wards another crossing this SeaCat service of EIO a car year. Details: 01304 204204. and £1 each passenger. Foot passengers £2, daytrippers ☐ P&O EUROPEAN Ferries £1. Details: 01304 240241.

has a 24-hour overnight return, Dover-Calais, at £55 per ☐ SALLY Ferries is quoting car with up to nine passen-gers. Sunday to Thursday a Winter Saver fare of £50, until March 31, for a five-day until March 31 (£10 supplereturn for a car and up to five ment Friday and Saturday). passengers (£99 standard return) on its Ramsgate routes it also has a turn-up-and-go daytrip offer on the same to Dunkirk and Ostend. route until February 15, cost-Details: 01843 595566. ing at £10 a car with up to five passengers. Saturdays £10 extra. Details: 0990 980980.

☐ EURODRIVE quotes daytrips on Sally Ferries' Rams-

ern hotel and four days hire. Details: 0645 747757. ☐ SAVINGS of £100

Prices include scheduled person are being offered The Imaginative Trave flights and a local excursion. for its 19-day fully-escor SAVINGS of £40 to £100 China tour leaving Peking are available on holidays in March 10. The all-inclus Eilat, leaving Heathrow or price will still be close Manchester on January 18 or 22, with Longwood Holidays. Details: 0181-551 4494. E2,000 per person. Deta 0181-742 8612.

□ LAS VEGAS can reached non-stop fr Gatwick from Monday wl Unijet launches its inaugu service. Combined with new flights are week-lo hotel holidays starting fr

£299 per person. Deta 01444 459191.

\$75 (about £50) a night u HOTELS April 15, then drop to \$5 night until December, l tails: 0800 614 790.

CHILDREN under 13 o now stay and eat free at 65-strong Forte Posthochain when accompany their parents on Leist Breaks packages. Child can either eat from a spec menu or have half portion from the main menu. Deta 0345 404040.

ONLY one in every th hotels now offers guests "turn-down" service (turn) back the bed covers). cording to a survey Horwath UK, a hotel cons tancy. But more than half: hotels surveyed provide non-smoking rooms. H warth: 0171-353 5380.

hagen, Florence, Hambu Madrid, Munich and Zuri Details: 0345 666777.

☐ EXECUTIVE Club me bers flying British Airways Milan from Londo Birmingham, Glasgow Manchester earn double

Miles on business cla flights taken before the end February. Details: 09 322322 MANX Airlines h ☐ MANX

frequent fiver scheme. Ber fits include free flights at airport lounge access. I tails: 0345 256256.

gate routes at £10 per car pi five people, £39 for five da Hoverspeed five-day retu at £59 for car plus f passengers (£85 standard turn). Both sets of fares va until March 31. Stena Line routes to Calais. Dienne a

day return), £49 (five day and £69 standard, all for o plus five. Bookings by Febr ary 15 for travel by April Details: 0181 342 8979. SCANDANAVIAN S ways is offering 50 per co

Cherbourg sell for £39 (thr

off fares from Harwich either Hamburg, Esbierg Gothenburg on select dates until March 15. Detail

Two famous leisure attractions get a change of style

Activity drive by Butlin's

BY HELEN CONWAY

SIXTY years after opening its first holiday camp at Skegness, Butlin's is setting its sights on attracting a more upmarket clientele to its centres. For this summer, the com-

pany has launched a new multiactivity programme called Leisure Pursuits, which plays down the Butlin's connection for fear it may prove a turn-off for some people. A brochure has been pro-

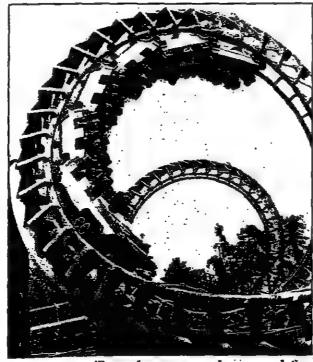
duced featuring 12 different activities including abseiling. canoeing, orienteering and windsurfing, as well as more urusual activities like dragon boating and hovercrafting.

Accommodation for the whole programme is based at the five Butlin's holiday worlds in the UK: Somerwest World in Minehead, Southcoast World in Bognor Regis. Starcoast World in Pwilheli,

and Wonderwest World on the Scottish coast at Ayr. However, while the traditional Butlin's holiday programme encourages holidaymakers to stay on-site and make full use of the subtropical waterworlds, funfairs and other leisure facilities, all the activities in Leisure Pur-

Funcoast World in Skegness

suits take place outside. Holidaymakers can choose just to use the centre for Sleeping and book the activities package with self-catering arrangements. Prices start at £74 per person for a three-night break with self-catering acrommodation and £200 per person for a week's holiday. including 11 activities.



Alton Towers will soon have sponsored accommodation

Sweet-dreams hotel

A NEW botel at Alton Towers will have rooms sponsored by chocolate and soft-drink manufacturers, offering unlimited supplies of their products, Steve Keenan writes.

Cadbury's is sponsoring a room with a chocolate dispenser and doors designed like chocolate bars, a TV set like a box of Roses and chairs replicating melted chocolate. Another room is to be

sponsored by Coca Cola, who will also supervise the decor. It is the first time private firms have sponsored rooms in a UK botel, and follows the success of the Walt Disney Company in separately theming its six hotels at Disneyland Paris. The rooms will cost around

£200 for a family of six per night. The other 171 rooms in the themed botel, to open on March 16, will cost families of four £100 a night. Each has a secret drawer for children

The £20 million hotel will also have a reception desk created from lost luggage and an old-fashioned gift shop. A plan to include a resident teddy bear in each room was shelved because the company feared huge losses. .

Around 17 per cent of visi-tors to Alton Towers stay overnight. It is also hoping to attract themed business con-ferences. The park had 180,000 corporate visitors last year and will be able to host

Airlines fight daylight Bill

HOLIDAY flight schedules could be thrown into chaos if Britain adopts "daylight extra" and moves to a common central European time, according to charter airlines.

Despite strong backing from most of the British tourist industry for a Private Member's Bill proposing the switch, charter airlines fear that it would lead either to a sharp increase in night flights or to British flights being crowded out of holiday airports at peak times.

Supporters of John Butterfill's British Time (Extra Day-light) Bill, which is scheduled for a second reading on January 19, last night briefed MPs on potential benefits of an additional hour of daylight.

But airlines fear that not enough attention has been paid to resolving initial prob-lems involved in the switch. Holidaymakers could face higher prices, confusion and even wholesale cancellations if it goes ahead, they say. The problem revolves

around take-off and landing slot times, which are negotiated internationally in Greenwich Mean Time. This means that a summer charter flight which leaves Gatwick, for example, at 0700 local time is using a slot negotiated for 0600 GMT. When the extra daylight hour is introduced. would become 0800 local. But the slot time would

remain as 0600 GMT. The airline would, therefore, have the option of either staying with the existing GMT slot and making the take off time 0900 local or keeping the 0700 local take off schedule

slot to 0500. But this would bring forward the landing time at the destination airport by an hour and would create problems becasue many airports in the Mediterranean are already heavily congested.

If the airline kept the same GMT slot but left an hour later in local time, evening flights would also be an hour later and therefore impinge on the night flying curiew times. "We would have no option

but to have more quotas for Parker-Eaton, deputy manag-ing director of Britain's biggest charter carrier, Britannia.
That would either upset the noise protesters or mean our cancelling our third rotation of the day. That would create problems which, we calculate, would cost Britannia alone £20 million a year through loss of aircraft utilisation.

The charter airlines are pressing for the date of the proposed extra hour lanned for October 1997 - to be delayed until airlines have been able to renegotiate slot

Meanwhile the rest of the tourism industry remains in favour of the changes. "Although there might be

some confusion at first the long-term advantages outweigh the short-term problems" says Richard Tobias of the British Incoming Tour Operators Association. He claims an extra hour of daylight would produce up to a billion pounds worth of additional revenue by allowing tourists more time to visit attractions, and that travel and communication with the rest of Europe would be easier.



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Stewart threatened by England's search for order

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BLOEMFONTEIN

ENGLAND'S cricketers arrived here yesterday with their morale as low as it has been since they began their tour of South Africa 12 weeks ago after their capitulation in the first one-day international on Tuesday night.

The only relief for the tour has bidden farewell to Cape Town, where it lost three matches that appeared to be in the bag and in the trank of Raymond Illingworth, the manager, yesterday, the players lost focus and commitment because of the presence of their families.

England postponed until this morning announcing their team for the second in the series of seven one-day internationals here this afternoon. but changes are almost certain, possibly radical ones. Fielding a team packed with limited-overs factorums, as England did on Tuesday, is sound enough in theory, but if, in practice, they fail under pressure, it is dangerously flawed.

After just one match. England are seriously considering ahandoning this strategy and again altering the balance of their side. There appear to be two alternatives open to them. One is to bring in a sixth batsman, perhaps Ramp-rakash, at the expense of an all-rounder, possibly White rather than Reeve, whose lack of match practice is likely to act in his defence. The other is more dramatic to bring in Robin Smith as an opener. play Russell as wicketkeeper and to drop Stewart.

Stewart has been an integrai member of England's one-day side for several years, but, recently, his technique has looked increasingly unconvincing in all international matches. Smith, though not outstanding one-day record, with as many hundreds for England to his credit as the rest of the party combined.

The manager's assessment of the defeat on Tuesday was damning. "We made mistakes that you do not expect profes-sionals to make," he said. We've got to get back our discipline. There have been a lot of distractions. A lot of people have been around and it's been very bitty.

"I would agree that the players have not been as



Reeve: lack of practice

focused in the last week or so as in the first part of the tour. It is difficult when families and friends are here. It is a contentious issue and I do not Perhaps they should come out earlier, at a quieter period of the tour." The mood of Michael Atherton, the captain, was no less sombre. "We did pretty well to lose," he said.

"I thought it was a game we should have won, but we gave away 17 extras and dropped Pollock with a fairly easy chance. We would have settled for chasing 212, but it should have been 180." From 155 for three, England collapsed to 205 all out to lose by six runs.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, confirmed that his side had been in an almost hopeless position. "It was a case of they lost it rather than we won it," he said. "At the second drinks break taken shortly before England's coilapsel, we had a very, very slim chance to win and thought we would just wait, be calm and see what happened. Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald came back and were very In the closing stages, the contrast could not have been

more stark. South Africa bowled and fielded tigerishly and held on to every chance: the England lower order froze from the moment Fairbrother drove loosely into the hands of mid-on. There are a lot of areas to tighten up," Atherton said, "We need to find our best combination. We need some cool heads under pressure."

Although Richard Illingworth, their first-choice slow bowler, is not quite recovered from his strained side. England remain keen to field one specialist spinner in each match, even though Atherton gave Neil Smith only two overs in Cape Town.

One thing at least, about the match on Tuesday cheered Atherton - the profligacy of the early South Africa batsmen, who threw away wickets like confetti. "If South Africa continue to play like that, I will be surprised if we do not beat them," he said. Unfortunately for the England captain, rarely have the past few weeks been surprise-free.

☐ The stadium in the Indian city of Nagpur, near Bombay, where a wall collapsed killing ten spectators during an international match in November, was yesterday confirmed as the venue for the Australia-Zimbabwe match in the World Cup on March i.



اعتزامن الأعل

She may have been away from the game since September, but the grimaces and fiercely-driven, double-handed shots were as familiar as ever when Monica Seles returned to tournament tennis vesterday Despite a brief attack of nerves, the world's oint-No I, whose last match was in losing to Steffi Graf in the final of the US Open, was quickly into her stride, dismissing Dominique Monami, of Belgium, 6-1, 6-2 in 55 one-sided minutes in the second round of the Peters International event in Sydney. However, although Seles was the main attraction at the White City courts, Greg Rusedski, of

Great Britain, was the day's outstanding performer. The Canadian-born British No I, who beat Richard Krajicek, of Holland, the No 2 seed, on Tuesday, thrashed Carsten Arriens, of Germany, 6-0, 6-0 in a little less than 29 minutes in his second-round match, serving ten aces and dropping just six points in each set. It is believed to be the fastest win at the tournament in the modern era. Tim Henman, Britain's other representative, will not be joining Rusedski in the quarter finals. Henman lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to Mark Woodforde, of Australia, the experienced

Ruling on Modahl case is. imminent

By JOHN GOODBOOM

DIANE MODAHL has deared another hurdle in the battle to prove her innocence on drug-taking charges. Sources at the International Amateur Athletic Federation said yesterday that there had been a "misunderstanding" and that the 1990 Commonwealth 800 metres champion was eligible to run anywhere in the world until an arbitration panel settled the dispute. That settlement could come

within the next two weeks. Vicente Modahl, the athlete's husband, said. "This is great news, but why do they not just admit they cannot prove a case against her?" he asked.

It was previously thought that Modahl could run in British domestic meetings but not internationally until the arbitration panel reached a verdict. Tony Ward, the Brit-ish Athletic Federation (BAF) spokesman, said: "We are a bit surprised it has come out like delighted for Diane."

Modahl has been battling to prove her innocence since she was sent back from the Comnonwealth Games in August 1994 after a urine sample taken at a meeting in Lisbon two months earlier produced an unacceptably high testosterone-epitestosterone ratio. A BAF disciplinary committee concluded that Modahl must have taken the male hormone, testosterone, which helps competitors to recover quickly.

However, last July, a BAF appeal panel upheld her claim that her urine sample had not been refrigerated for about 40 hours before being transferred to the Portuguese laboratory for analysis and that the contamination may have given rise to a false result. Two scientists confirmed this

The IAAF has described this view as "a remote theory" and asked for the case to be heard by an arbitration panel, due to convene in Monte Carlo in the near future. Its decision will finally determine whether Modahl, 29, should face a four-year ban from the sport.

Syed sets off for-**Atlanta**

MATTHEW SYED, of Great Britain, took his first step towards the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer with a straight-games victory on the opening day of the Olympic table tennis qualifying competition at the Nynex Arena, Manchester, yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). Syed beat Taric Hodzic, of Bosnia, 22-20, 21-9, 21-10, recovering from 9-14 down in the first game and saving two game-points at 18-20 before imposing himself. Andrea Holt, England's other No I, beat Tatiana Stof-blat, of Israel, 21-11, 21-13,

Bidding begins

Olympic Games: Eleven cities have made formal applicamer Olympic Games. They are Athens, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Istanbul, Lille Rio de Janeiro, Rome, San Juan (Puerto Rico), Seville, Stockholm and St Peters-

burg.

A consortium backed by The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, is bidding about £1.3 billion for the winter and summer Olympics between 2000 and 2008, according to Sydney Olympic officials yesterday.

Richards out

Bowls: England's indoor selectors have left out Wynne Richards, the No 9 seed in the world indoor championships in Preston next month, in their attempt to wrest the Hilton Trophy from Scotland. There are three new caps in the 28-strong party - Stuart Airey, John Leeman and Paul

Double top

Real tennis: Chris Bray and Mike Gooding, the favourites, won the BNB Resources British professional doubles championship, beating Nick Wood, of Hampton Court, and Adam Phillips, of Hatfield, the No 3 seeds, 6-2, 0-6, 6-2, 6-1 in the final.

Sep = 2 (4) 44' SEE WICH.

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THE SALE TIMES FREE HEALTH **CLUB VISIT TOKEN 4**

AFFIX TOKEN HERE

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CHOOSE FROM THESE PARTICIPATING CLUBS

SCOTLAND

GLASGOW, LivingWell at Hilton, William Street, G3, 0141 204 5512; LivingWell HC, St Vincent Street, G2, 0141 248 9788

NORTHERN IRELAND BELFAST, City Gym, Wellington Place, 01232 327231

NORTH EAST

GARFORTH, LivingWell at Hilton. Garforth, Leeds 0113 2876444 GRIMSBY, Millfields Health Club, Bargate, 01472 356068 HULL, The Metropolitan Club, Kingston Park. 01482 321191 LEEDS, LivingWell at Hilton, Neville Street, 9113 2445443 NEWCASTLE, Waves HC, Quayside, 0191 222 0333; LivingWell HC, Carliol Square, 0191

NORTH WEST

MANCHESTER, LivingWell HC. Quay Street, M3, 0161 839 0606; Copthorne Hotel, Sallord Quarys,

MIDLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, LivingWell HC, Pnory Queensway, 84, 0121 236 7789; Hattons HC, Paradise Circus, 0121 200 2727; David Lloyd. Shady Lane, 0121 325 0700 BURTON ON TRENT, Moseley Fitness Centre, Moseley Street. 01283 533600 COVENTRY, LivingWell at Hilton, Walsgrave Triangle, 01203 8410:9 DUDLEY, Crystals HC, Brierley Hill, 01384 482882 LOCKINGTON, Living Hell at Hilton, Derby Rd. 01509 674 166 MILTON KEYNES, LivingWell HC. Avebury Boulevard, 01908 668286; LivingWell at Hilton, Timbold Drive, 01908 240422 WARWICK. LivingWell at Hilton, Junction 15 M40, 01926 493700

WALES

CARDIFF, David Lloyd, Ipswich Road, 01222 460046; Waves HC. Copthorne Way, 01222 599100; The Metropolitan Club, Ocean Way, 01222 456000

GREATER LONDON PORTLAND PLACE, LivingWeil at Hilton, London W1, 0171 636 1000

WESTMINSTER, LivingWell Health Club, Millbank, London SW1, 0171 233 3579 PARK LANE, LivingWell HC, London W1, 0171 629 6974 BLOOMSBURY, Mecklenburgh HC, London WC1, 0171 813 0555 ISLE OF DOGS, Arena Racquet & Sports Club, London E14, 0171

515 8940 CITY OF LONDON, Espree HC.Royal Mint Court, EC3, 0171 488 1222; Espree HC, Tudor Street, EC4, 0171 867 1222; Broadgate Club, Exchange Place, 0171 375 2464 BLOOMSBURY. Physique, Judd Street, London WC1. 0171 837 8880 TUFNELL PARK, Maximum Fitness, Fortess



Road, London NW5, 0171 482 3341 BARBICAN, Holmes Place. London EC1, 0171 374 0091 BATTERSEA, The Metropolitan Ciub. Sheepcote Lane, SW11, 0171 228 4400 CHELSEA, Holmes Place, London SW10, 0171 352 9452 WEST END, The Metropolitan Club, Kingly Street, W1, 9171 734 5002 OXFORD STREET, Holmes Place, London W1. 9171 436 0500 FULHAM, The Metropolitan Club, North End Road, SW6, 0171 610 1410 EALING, Holmes Place, London W5, 0171 579 9433 MUSWELL HILL Laboratory Spa and HC, The Avenue, London N10, 0181 482 3000 HOUNSLOW, David Lloyd HC, Southall Lane, 0181 573 9378 ENFIELD, David Lloyd HC, Caterhatch Lane, 0181 364 5858 CROYDON, The Surrey Club.

Hannibal Way, 0181 681 1331;

THE SCIENCE OF AGELESS AGEING: SEE PAGES 14 AND 15 -

LivingWell at Hilton, Purley Way 0181 667 4444 KINGSTON, Holmes Place, Wood St, Surrey, 0181 549 7700 WANDSWORTH, The Metropolitan Club, Burr Road, SW18, 0181 874 1155 ESTERN AVENUE, Dragons, Rowdell Rd, 0181 841 5611 EWELL, Dragons, Ruxley Lane, Surrey, 0181 393 6011 RICHMOND, Pinnacle, Kew Foot Rd, 0181 332 7185 NORBURY, Pinnacie, London Road, 0181 679 2226 SUTTON & CHEAM, Pinnacle, Gander Green Lane, 0181 661 9862 WEMBLEY, LivingWell at Hilton, Empire Way, 0181 795 4118 TWICKENHAM, The Metropolitan Club Craneford Way, 0181 892 2251

SOUTH EAST

GATWICK, LivingWell at Hilton, Gatwick Airport, 01293 527261 WATFORD, LivingWell at Hilton, Eltham Way, 01923 210247 READING, David Lloyd, Tharnes Valley Park Drive 01734 662904 EASTBOURNE, David Lloyd, Broadwater Way, 01323 509963 WEST BYFLEET, Pinnacle, Pyrford Road, 01932 351835 ST ALBANS, Pinnacle, Cell Barnes Lane, 01727 869081 WINDSOR, Pinnacle. Heiston Lane, 01753 832935 HOVE, Dragons, St Heliers Ave. 01273 724211 GUILDFORD, Dragons, Epsom Road, 01483 458811 WOKING, Chris Lane Tennis & Country Club, Westfield Ave, 01483 722113 CRAWLEY, Copthorne The Club, Copthorne Road, 01342 715022 Grawley, PJ's,Copthorne, 01342 714994 SLOUGH, Waves, Cippenham Lane, 01753 516222

SOUTH WEST CHILWORTH, LivingWell at Hilton. Brecker: Place. SOUTHAMPTON, 01703 766926 SWINDON, LivingWell at Hilton, Great Western Way, 01793 410937 BOURNEMOUTH, David Lloyd, Knole Road, 01202 394333 RINGWOOD, David Lloyd, Christchurch Road, 01425 470101 PLYMOUTH, Plymsoles, Annada 01752 POHTSMOUTH, The Metropolitan Club. Alexandra Park, 01705



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5. The offer is valid until February 29, 1996. 6. The voucher also entitles the bearer to be entered into a free prize draw, with the chance to win a year's free membership of that club. 7. The offer is subject to availability at the time of advance booking. 8. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

9. There may be additional charges if you wish to book beauty treatments. It is advisable to confirm what facilities are included in the offer at the time of booking. -

MITCHEL WAY TO A LOCAL TO SERVE

Minton's acumen endears him to Millions

They may not know him by name, but regular racegoers will recognise the man orchestrating joyous scenes in the winner's enclosure. David Minton cuts quite a figure as he hand-shakes the owner, embraces the trainer and dishes out several thumping slaps to the neck of the winning horse. You can see him radiating pride from a hundred paces. Indeed, you can recognise Minton's frame from even further afield. He makes a rare exception among a fraternity that habitually walks at breakneck pace. If most trainers carry as little spare flesh as their charges, Minton resembles the horse returning from a prolonged period at

But that, in essence, is the man himself. In every way he is larger than life, a fact to which the many contented shareholders in his Million In Mind syndicates will testify.

Those shareholders have been infected by their leader's unbridled passion for National Hunt racing. It greatly helps if a horse like Mysilv races in the syndicate's colours, but in the sometimes murky world of multiple ownership, many of Minton's accolytes have become annual investors on the pleasure principle alone.

The Million partnerships have grown in numbers every year since their inception five years ago. A syndicate initial-



Julian Muscat on a larger than life character with the knack of finding winners for syndicates

very expensive," Minton added.

A prerequisite in any Min-

ton nurchase is that it must

extend itself at the walk.

Remittance Man, Travado

and Barton Bank are three of

my best store purchases," he said. "If you want to be critical

you could say they were a bit narrow and light in their

frames. They never were the most prepossessing individ-

uals but one thing they could

all do is walk. They were all

. V 1, was among the as-

sets inherited by the British

Bloodstock Agency (BBA) when he merged his business

with the larger firm nine months ago, With Minton

now on the board of directors,

the BBA, a publicly-quoted

company, has far greater ambitions in the National

He will consequently be

filling larger orders at sales of

young jumpers. Then there's

the Fortune In Mind syndi-

cate, a BBA-inspired, Minton-

driven venture aimed at duplicating Million's jump-ing successes on the Flat. This

premium on Minton's time

Hunt arena.

prospective jumper

tremendous athletes."

ly geared for Flat racing quickly orientated towards jumpers - and a flurry of notable achievements.

That was to be expected given Minton's prowess at plucking Triumph Hurdle winners largely from Flat racing's wastelands. Connaught Ranger, Saxon Farm, First Bout, Alone Success, Kribensis, and Mysilv were all his purchases and hopes are high that Our Kris. a 20,000 guineas recruit, can hoist the Million pennant come Cheltenham in March.

Although the horse recently lost his unbeaten record in Sandown's gluepot conditions, bookmakers still rate him Britain's best prospect against the inevitable onslaught from Ireland.

"I am greatly helped in buying horses off the Flat by my assistant, Anthony Bromiley," Minton said of his penchant for the Triumph Hurdie. "He follows the form very closely while I will look at the horse's pedigree, which is important, and then assess it as an individual. I very rarely buy American-breds; they can't adapt to hurdles at all. And we always try to buy privately rather than at the sales, where horses can get

will do nothing for what he describes as "my dream life of training a handful of young umpers somewhere out in the country.

Given his National Hunt bias, recent converts to the sport might find it hard to pelieve Minton was among the Flat's big-spending blood stock agents as recently as five years ago. He was up there trading seven-figure bids with the sheikhs over the choicest yearlings in his capacity as manager for the Thompsons's Cheveley Park Stud. Occasionally he would even

act for Sheikh Mohammed through his friendship with Anthony Stroud, the sheikh's racing manager and former colleague at the Curragh Bloodstock Agency. Yet he maintains he is now happier than ever, buying regularly for Nicky Henderson, David Nicholson, Henrietta Knight and Micky Hammond in the less rarified atmosphere of store auctions.

In that sense Minton is only playing true to type. The first deal he ever struck, some 25 years ago, was over Comedy Of Errors, a jumping stalwart who was deprived of a Champion Hurdle treble by Lanzarote. As a grandson of Bob Bebb, the Shropshire farmer who bred Pendil, it would have amounted to a betraval of catastrophic proportions had Minton deserted his roots by concentrating his energies on the Flat.



Minton, a National Hunt stalwart, has purchased six subsequent Triumph Hurdle winners

ROA takes dim view of spoiling tactics

THE conflict of interest between race sponsors and own-ers displaying commercial sponsorship on their silks scalated yesterday when the Racehorse Owners' Associ-ation (ROA) said it would be advising its members not to tolerate the spoiling tactics adopted by George Ward, the chairman of Tripleprint, in the wake of One Man's King George VI Chase victory at Sandown on Saturday (Julian Muscat writes).

John Paxman, director-general of the ROA, said yesterday: "Owners employ jockeys to wear their silks and we maintain it is wrong for those silks to be interfered with." Paxman will also be raising the matter with the British Horseracing Board and race-course officials next week.

Ward arranged for a sash to be worn by the winning jockey, Richard Dunwoody, which obscured the logo on his silks, giving Tripleprint exclusive television exposure.

Owners and breeders were granted VAT concessions amounting to £20 million in exchange for their commitment to attracting sponsor-ship. Some E2.7 million has been generated since the scheme was launched 17 months ago, but the concession is up for review by Customs & Excise any time from March.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

12.40 'iggins 1.10 Wild West Wind 1.40 Lucavan Cav

2.40 Highest Roots 3.10 Rectory Garden 3.40 Haile Dening

2.10 Viking Flagship

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 HAILE DERRING.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

12.40 SPETISBURY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE £2,758. 2m) (18 numers) 00-1 1969/S 37 (0,5) (Pell-trell Partners) J Gifford 6-11-11.
1 LUCKY EDOIE 35 [6] (I Shaw) P Hobbs 5-11-11.
232- BOLD DOI-PRIN 257 (5 Pression) T Pestor 6-11-5.
247- BURLINGFON SAM 58 (I) Barrols) D Earnes 6-11-5.
6 CARDINAL RIJLE 37 (P Burph J Bihards 7-11-5.

6 CARDINAL RULE 57 (*) Burch) J Etherita 7-11-5 R Optiviously
3-2 CHA-YD 20 (*) Winey J Did 6-11-5
5030 COUNTRY CONDRIDE 588 (6) Coins) C Jones B-11-5 8 McCoert
20 GONE FOR LUNCH 57 (Seader Partners) Miss H Knight 5-11-5 M A FRagrand
54 HOODED HAWK 58 (6 Harrey In Hersieson 5-11-5 M A FRagrand
27 MSTER MOROSE 21 (5) (Mrs. J Mould) N Testion-Disdus 8-11-5 G Lievellyn
5-402 IRR KETHAT 43 (7) Basgiant A J Wilson 5-11-5 Clare Thomas
4 WHO AM 136 (J Burley) R Alast 5-11-5 Mrs. Clare Thomas
4 WHO AM 136 (J Burley) R Alast 6-11-5 Mrs. Clare Thomas
17/44 WIND AM 136 (J Burley) R Alast 6-11-5 Mrs. P Presel
204 CHARMANG GURL 278 (C Cone) D Strewnood 5-11-0 J Ostorne
34-0 HA UNA 57 (Mrs. 2 Carly S Christon 6-11-0 S United S Ostorne
1ADY HOSO (Mrs. S King) Mrs. J Plana 5-11-0 W Misrison
1ADY HOSO (Mrs. S King) Mrs. J Plana 5-11-0 Mrs. Misrison (7)
14 Mrs. Carlo Cone Mrs. Carlo S Christon 6-11-0 Mrs. Misrison (7)
14 Mrs. Carlo Carlo Cone Misrison 6-11-0 Mrs. Misrison (7)
15 Mrs. Carlo Carlo Cone Mrs. Misrison (7)
16 L Baster (7)
17 Mrs. Carlo Carlo Cone Misrison (8-11 Cint 7) (6-11 Mrs. Mrs. Carlo Ca SETTING: 11-4 Lucky Eddie, 3-1 Tagure, 9-2 Mister Monase, Bald Dalphin, 8-1 Chai-Yo. 16-1 Hooded Hawk.

1985: CONDUCTORS LEADER 6-11-0 M A Pizquald (9-4 lav) N Humierson 20 res

FORM FOCUS

IGGINS best Welsh Mill 44 in a 19-runner novice sundid at Humbergoon (2m 110yd, good to soil). LUCKY EDDE best Samerin 144 in a 14-runner marken National Humi Fat table at Lawlon (2m 11, good), BOLD DOLPHEN 31-1 2nd of 23 to Million Abbot in a novice runde at Chepston (2m 110yd, good to sail CHAP-YO 7 2nd of 10 to Chepress in a National Humi Fat state at Lawlond Humi Fat state at Resource (2m 110yd, good to sail CHAP-YO 7 2nd of 10 to Chepress in a National Humi Fat state at Resource (2m 110yd, good to sail). CHARMANG GRIL about 61(1) 4th of 14 to La National Humi Fat state at Lawlond Humi Fat state at Lawlon

1.10 SPETISBURY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Dlv # £2,758; 2m) (18 nunners)

278 13 MY DLD CHIMA Se (F) June 1 Possel 1 Commany 1 Com I'SE NO CONTESPONDAG LINESIN

COMMANGENT CRACKER 114; 2nd of 16 to Castle
Sweap in Neatonal Hunt Ris neer at Newton Abbut
(2m 1) good to soft pendiforate start. GENERAL
JACKE 101 2nd of 3 to Tan in nonce hadde at
H-minegates 2m 1090, good to Simp, PHAR
FROM FUNNY 13 Set of 17 to Misser Mouses in
reaction Neatonal Hunt Ris nees 1 to 100, good to 100, good to Imp.
Titlyd, heavy). THE CAPTAIN'S WISH about 414
6th of 17 to Bodger's Lazer in a National Hunt Fist

Section: WILD 1057 WISH

SECTION: WILD

1.40 WEATHERBYS LEASING DIRECTORY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,688: 2m) (19 numbers)

1996; MORSTOCK 5-10-9 T Dascombe (7-1) A Hodges 17 rais

RACELINE 0891-168-168 WETRERBY 101 201 301 W'CANTON 102 202 302 UNOFIELD 103 203 303 TRAMORE 120 220 320 Pearce fined

BRIAN PEARCE, the trainer. was fined £750 by the disci-plinary committee of the Jockey Club yesterday after an identity mix-up. Pearce's run-ner, Ela-Ment, appeared under the name of Hong Kong Dollar at Lingfield on September 28 and Wolverhampton on October 14.

GUIDE TO OUR IN LINE RACECARD

Rateucard nember, Six-figure form (F — fell, P — publied up. U — usesailed roles B — prought form, S — sièpped up. R — related. D — discassifiad), Hereit's name. Days annes last coting, F il Rat. (B — biblions V — visco. H — hopd. E — Expelaeld. C — course winne D — distance winner. CD — course and distance Soing on which have her work — from pool to firm, hand, 6 — good, 5 — soit, good to soft, hashy). Owen in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Thres Private Handicapper's railing

2.10 JOHN BULL CHASE (£7,035; 2m 50) (4 runners)

BETTING: 5-4 Vitano Fisosino, 7-4 Dublin Piver, 3-1 Taxvado, 8-1 Luety Light. 1995: LLSTY LIGHT 9-11-10 W Muraten (5-1) Mrs J Primar 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

DUBLIN FLYER best Egypt Mild Prince (6) in 12Tenuar Machinen Gold Cap at Chargeterm (5m =
110yd, good). LUSTY LIBRY won this race had
topy does been best to 5-trainer chans
level to soft) with DUBLIN FLYER recession (40m
let, TRAWADO N 3rd of 5 to Sound Mas in grade 1
Selection: DUBLIN FLYER recession (40m
let, TRAWADO N 3rd of 5 to Sound Mas in grade 1
Selection: DUBLIN FLYER
SELECTION
SELECT

2,40 BLACKHORE VALE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,618: 2m) (18 rusners)

SETTING: 9-4 Highest Roots, 3-1 Size-Polizida, 5-1 Robins Profe, 7-1 Rov Du Nord, 8-1 Rambow Road, 10-1 Lady Lacty, 12-1 others

1996: NORDIC CRONNI 4-10-11 Il Dunisordy (1-2 lat) 14 Pipe 19 His FORM FOCUS

HISHEST ROOTS mant 2 fm of 10 to larger in Commer at Masons-Latine (1m 2t, soin), ROBINS PRIDE 61 2nd of 9 to Father Create in charming bronce hardle at Plumpton (2m 11, good to soit). 67AC-POLLABH, completed double, best York's Mist 11 in 15-tumper charming movice hardle at the completed double, best York's Mist 11 in 15-tumper charming movice hardle at Latinor (2m, good to Wran) with RAMBOW ROAD.

3.10 DILLO LUMB CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £4,380: 3m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

| Figratical Crisse: 24,380: 370 11 110yd) (14 Interiors) | Figratical Crisses: 24,380: 370 11 110yd) (14 Interiors) | Figratical Crisses: 380 | Figration | Figra

ong turndicap: Freds Melody 8-8 RETITING: 4-1 Mr Floragon, 5-1 Bichaps Sand, Ressay Barden, 6-1 Act Of Parlement, 7-1 Bilge Velu, 8-1 Bob Weed, 19-1 Yug Of Pasce, 12-1 Duhallow Lodge, 14-1 others. 1966: MR FLANASAN 9-10-2 G Bradby (3-1) C Brooks 15 am FORM FOCUS

BEN-HOP'S BLAND bank Stauesto Area 51 m a 6-burner handicap classo at Exeter (2m 71 110pd, good) with GIVES A BUCK (177b better 60) 400 to farm). SURLEY BAY 80 2nd of 12 to Nazzaro in 8 50. DURALLOW COSE (77b better 60) 400 to farm). SURLEY BAY 80 2nd of 12 to Nazzaro in 8 are handicap class at Handow 62 2nd of 6 in Not Protes at a bandicap class or class of the protect (4m 10pd) good. DURALLOW (1005 to toursen Primar bandicap class at Lumien Cen. good ponditional class 1, 116 00 FEASE 91 2nd of 7 to Dorina Dove as a bandicap class (2m 41 10pd, good) by the protect of t

Long Remilican: An Buchall Lists 9-12. Old Deer Park 9-9. Propperson 9-3 BETTINE: 2-1 Harler Derrog, 5-1 Koo a Promise, 6-1 Darroy King, 7-1 Mark The Yark, 10-1 Captera Coe, Resie-8. 12-1 others. 1995; DATS N BARLEY 6-10-5 S Berrough (25-7) P Roction 19 rpm

FORM FOCUS

DATENES kinds hard Winachands See mark in condi-storal inclose: hardscap handle of Footenis (2m 54, seet). WFECH-SOLD, Establish in General Chair is newbor hardle at Categorium (2m 41 110pd, good in soll) perutiarrate stat. (COO'S PROMISE 27 3 5rd to Catife Stas is novice handle at Ludow (2m 5 110pd, good). CAPTANN COC 6W 3rd in Teverla Sir in Inventicap handle at Casal 3 Soll of Catife Stas is novice handle at Ludow (2m 5 110pd, good). CAPTANN COC 6W 3rd in Teverla Sir in Inventicap handle at Goldestone (2m 61 110pd, good). MPI PLAYFULL 148 2nd to Cross's Delight Selection: HALLE DESPRING (msp.)

COURSE SPECIALISTS 33.3 21.8 18.3 17.6 15.8 J Ligari R Duractory J Oshome T Dascombe W Minstern 35.7 31.9 27.8 21.2 20.0

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Kelso Going: good to solt

1.16 (3m 11 ch) 1. MAJOR BELL IM
Moloney, 4-1). 2, Sevoy (P Carberry, 6-1);
2, Seeking Gold (A Thornion, 33-1) ALSO
RAN: 5-2 lav ley House (5th). 3 Seven
Towers, 10 Dorfin Casts (1), 12 Clust
Mistress (puj. 33 Just The Job. 50 Paddy
Momssey, Perfect Light (4th), 68 D'Arblay
Street, Donovans Reef, Go Siny (6th), 100
Lauder Square, 200 Island River, Separa
Belle 18 ran. Hd, 151. 77, 151, 151 A
Whilliams at Hawick, Toler 56,70; 22,50,
22 40, 24,80 DF: 223-90 The 2334.00
(part won Pool of 2244-65 carried forward
to 1.40 Wincarton Loday), CSF 225 89,
3,45 (2m. 10xd feld). J ARAGOM AYR (4 Gaing: good to soit io 1 40 Wincarton Ioday). CSF: 125 89.

1.45 (2m 110yd hdie) 1, ARAGON AYR (A Dobbin, 2-1); 2, Urban Dending (B Harding, 10-1); 3, Vintage Teittinger (L Wyer, 10-1) ALSO RAN, 10-11 Law Eurotwist (Srh., 9 Mr Devious, 25 Winterfoliation (Eth), 40 Ricans, 55 Marked Card (4th, 100 Noty's Feeling (urt, Strattione Dream (pu) 10 ran 1-1-1, 122, 141, 144, 244, P.M. P Monseth at Rosewell Toler 52,40; ET 30, 53,80, 53,10. DF, 145, 10 Trac 155,40, CSF: 122,11. 245 (0 Trac: £56.40, CSF: £22.11. 2.15 (2m 11 ch) 1, SONSEE MO (T Reed, 100-30): 2, Judicial Field (M Dayer, 5-2 lav), 3, Brier's Delight (B Herding, 10-1). ALSO RAN 4 Strong Approach (Bih), 5 Flash Ct Realm (4th), 10 Super Sandy (Sth) 6 ram 31, 11, 21, 12, 1% I Ms S Bracbowne at Cuper, Tole, 54 30; £2.80, CT 80 OF; £9.80 CSF £10.75

CT BO DF 19.80 CSF E10.75

2.45 (2m 110/d hote) 1. COLONEL, IN CHIEF (P Carbarry, 8-11 fav/); 2. Highland Way (R Gamtty, 14-1), 3. Singing Sand (R Supple, 33-1). ALSO RAN 6 Jaunty General 4(th), 7 Deart Brave (8th), 10 Henry Hoolet, 14 Shane River, 25 Dark Bucy, 50 Kammare River (5th), 70W Star (f), 100 Solegith, Turnin Col, Turkish Yower, 200 Fine Tune, Fodiew, Howyoutdong, Meedowleck, Ski Lady 18 ran, 374, 100, 27, 91, nk. F Murphy of Middlehman Totols (1.80, E.130, E.270, E8.90 DF E3.80 Trio £204.00 CSF C12.06

C12.06

3.15 (3m 1f chl 1, EMERALD STORM (3

4.15 (3m 1f chl 1, EMERALD STORM (3

4.15 (3m 16 chl 1, EMERALD STORM (3

4.15 (3m 16 chl 1, EMERALD STORM (3

5.15 (3m 16 chl 1, EMERALD STORM (3

5.1

3.45 (2m 2) hdie) 1, COOUL LANE (D. Parker, 10-1); 2, Steaffast Ette (A Ricche, 7-2); 3, Scarba (M Newton, 2-1 fav), ALSO RAN, 7-2 Marco Magnifico, 9-2 Precipica RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MR MULLIGAN (2.50 Wetherby)

Next best: Dublin Fiver (2.10 Wincanton)

Run (6th), 11 Chummy's Saga (5th), 16 Callernoy (4th) 7 nan, 1 lkl, 201, 2 kl, 301, 11 J Dun at Henol, Tote: £12.60; £2.80, £2.70. DF: £23.20 CSF: £43.31.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.00 (1m 100 vd) 1, Maple Bay (P Roberts
11-4 lav); 2, Live Project (8-1); 3 Sarasi (8-1); 13 ran, 48, 1341 A Batley Tole £3.70.

15.30, £3.80, £2.40. DF: £25.70. Tho:
£5.310, £5.80, £2.40. DF: £25.70. Tho:
£5.310, £5.80, £2.40. DF: £25.70. Tho:
£5.311, CSF £25.08, Bought in 3,600 grs.
1.20 (7f) 1, Coachella (C Nutter, 11-2); 2.

4 yearman Oliver (14-1); 3. Cointosser (9-1)
Note of Caution 10-11 lav, 11 ran, 141, 34.
M Prescott, Tole, £7.20; £1.90, £2.60.
£2.10. DF: £47.70. Trio: £109.90 (part won. Pool of £97.52 carried forward to
1.40 Wincention today (SF £7.55 Alz.
2.00 (6f) 1, Senae Ot Priority (Alz.
0.10 carried, 3 D Nichols; Tole, £14.10;
£3.40, £1.70, £3.40. DF: £29.90 Trior
£3.40, £1.65.60 1, Lear Dencer (A ES 40, E7 17, E3 40. Dr. 129 50 11.
2.90 (1m 61 165yd) 1, Lear Dencer (A Clark, 15-8 law), 2, Shedow (7-2), 3, Bedow (12-1) 10 ran 14(, 144, P Mitchell, Tote 29 00, C1 30, E1 70, C3 10, DF C4 50, Tric. 29 30, CSF, C9 32. Trossa; CS7 74.
3.00 (1m 17 79yd) 1, Bernard Seven J. Weever, 14-1); 2, South Eastern Freq (8-1); 3, Kintwyn (20-1), Migel's Lad 3-1 fav. 13 ran, 143, W C Brazilar, Tote C13-90, CSF 290, E8 80, C14 20, DF, C38, 70 Tric 2957 40 (part worn, Poot of 2465 81 carried lowerd to 140 Wiresenton 10439), CSF C126.08. Tricast C2,085 70.
3.30 (1m 100 yet), I hand Of Strew (S

\$128.08. Tricast \$2,085 70.
3.30 (1m 100yd) 1, Hand Of Straw (\$
Drowne 16-1): 2, Faez (8-1), 3, Miss
Zarothar (5-1), No Submission 7-4 fav 13
ran, 2HJ, 2HJ, P. Murphy, Tole: \$23.00;
£6.20, £2.30, \$2.80, DF: £89.90. Tric.
£196.40 CSF £151 21 No bid.

Jackpot not won (pool of E32,448.41 control forward > Wincarton today). Placepot £2.241.70. Quadoot £241.30 (part won. Pool of £267.48 carried forward to Wincanton today).

☐ Richard Dunwoody will keep the ride on Unguided Missile at Ascot tomorrow in preference to Gordon Richards's stable jockey Tony

WETHERBY

THUNDERER 12.40 Simply Dashing. 1.20 LANSBOROUGH (nap). 1.60 Lo Stregone. 2.20 Sharkashka. 2.50 Cali II A Day, 3.20 Master Boston. 3.50 Alaskan Heir.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: Div I: £3,058: 2m 4i 110yd) (14 runners)

1.20 EBF NATIONAL HURT NOVICES HURDLE

6-4 Linsborough, 4-1 Macquerge, 6-1 Cipertonne, Miss Optimet, 8-1 Tine Scot, 12-1 Conton Julius, 14-1 Others. 1,50 MONKTON HANDICAP CHASE

(£5,053: 3m 110yd) (8) 1 -4P2 COSSNT 33 (CD.F.G.S) J Slover 12-11-10 Mr C Bonner (3) 10 2 L84- KAZASATIC 280 (C.F.G.S) J Ciflord 13-11-4 ... S Methics 88 3 P-P0 ARTONN 61 (D.F.G.S) Mrs S Bonnell 8-11-1 ... S Methics 88 4 -211 SCDITION BANKS 53 (CD.G.S) Mr H Eastery 7-11-0 L Wyer 96 5 UTF- TARTAN TYRANT 327 (CD.G.S) G Richards 10-11-0 A Dobbin 90 8 43-1 LO STRESONE 40 (CD.F.G.S) T fate 10-10-13. Mr S Switze 57 DS CARDESDALE 34 (D.F.G.S) Mrs M Reveloy 10-10-10 P Neven 6 1P-2 CORNER 807 28 (D.F.G.S) Mrs M Reveloy 10-10-10. A Magnériu 81 5-2 Scotlan Benia, 3-1 Lo Strugone, 4-1 Cogent, 5-1 Katabalic, 6-1 Tartan Tyrant, 10-1 Comer Boy, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRABERS: D Micholson, 14 witness from 42 numers, 33,3%, Mes Mi Reveller, 44 from 150, 29,3%, J Gellard, 4 from 16, 25,0%, M H Easterby, 27 from 134, 20 1%, L Lungo, 3 from 15, 20,0%; G Richards, 22 from 112, 19 6%.

JOCKEY: S McNeill, 3 wonders from 10 rides, 30 0%, A Magazire, 20 kgm 73, 27 4%; P Neven, 42 kgm 158, 26 6%, L Wyer 35 both 151, 23.2%, A Dobbin, 9 kgm 64, 14.1%; M Dwyer, 18 from 156, 11.5%. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Paric 1 00 Ultra Bast. 1 30 Justinianus, 3,30 Doddington Flyer Wincenton; 1 40 Lewinwood Junior 3,10 Norman Conqueror 3 40 Andre's Alfair

2.20 CONTHORPE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,945; 2m) (15)

7-2 Golden Helle, 9-2 Sweet Allignomatie, 5-1 Etilina, 10-1 Nayan, Startis: Inn, 14-1 others

2.50 TOWTON HOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £12.680: 3m 110vd) (8)

GIBOR II. 272,000. 3011 TLOYO) (8)

1 0-61 SENDR EL BETRUTTU 28 (6,6) Mm S Neck 7-11-13 G Brackey 88

2 (221 SPANSON LIGHT 28 (6),6 (6) Richards 7-11-9. A Boolson 91

3 5-12 CALL IT A DAY 28 (8) D Micholson 5-11-9. A Respect 69

4 -231 CHURCH LAW 27 (6) Mes L Tarke 9-11-5. R Boolson 7-11 MR MELLIBAN 49 (0,7-6) N Comice 8-11-5. R Boolson 7-4

5 -111 MR MELLIBAN 49 (0,7-6) N Comice 8-11-5. R Jabrason 88

5 D-2 OVER THE CORRES 81 J Curits 6-11-5. R Dayser 36

7 37:11 PERSYMANIA CALL 28 (0,7-6) M Bornell 10-11-5. A S Smith 85

8 5/1 UBU VAL 42 (0,7-6,8) W Bornell 10-11-5. . A S Smith 85

2-1 Senor El Bernati, 7-2 Spanish Light, 4-1 Mr Muthgan, 9-2 Call It A Day, 6-1 Libu Val, 10-1 Church Lain, 20-1 others

3.20 WIKE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,948; 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 4211 MASTER BOSTON 28 (CD.G.S) R Woodhouse 8-12-0 L Wyer B 2 P-4F NEWLANDS-GENERAL 25 (C,G.6) J Fizgeniid 10-11-12 5 2815 SALCH JM 28 (D.F.G.S) P Datos 9-10-12. A Magaze 6 11F1 EASRY JOKER 22 (D.G.S) S Kestewell 6-10-11 ... P Novan 7 F3/ ASTINGS 608 (D.G.S) J Forgerald 6-10-6... W Owan

9–4 Mester Boston, 5–2 Eastry Johan, 9–2 Newtands-Gameral, 6–1 Sarior Jim, Strong Deel, 14–1 Astrops

3.50 HEALAUGH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,058 2m 4l 110yd) (14)

HURDLE (£3,058 2m 4l 110yd) (14)

1 5-04 INY SWAN SONS 31 (7.8) J Smith 11-12-0 ... J Supple 95
2 59-2 NR. TEGROTY 21 (6) Mars 9 59 7-11-7 ... P McLoughtin 93
3 2-P3 TOPOTHENORTH-RACING 50 (8F,8) P Bissument 6-11-4
IL Cream, (7) 90
4 0-43 ALASKAN HER 20 (0,6,5) A Streets 5-11-3 ... B Harding 98
5 070- DERTRING BRIDGE 244 (5) Mr. 5 Johnson 6-11-8 R Johnson 90
6 P-80 TRESDOER 70 (F,6,5) M W. Essister 14-11-2 ... 0 Lee 88
7 224 CHARTERFORMARDMARE 256 (5) W Clay 10-11-1 Gay Lewis 87
8 P030 (6) MOREY 10 (8) C Browd 10-11-0 ... A Lamach 83
9 -840 MERRYNELL GOLD 40 J Carte 5-10-10 ... D J Karvansin (3) 93
10 2510 (WENS DUES 7 (0,0,8,6) E Teberingon 6-10-8 R Busins (7) 93
11 -380 PATROCIUS 23 (0,5) Marcke 11-10-8 ... E Historia (3)
12 -544 TARGET LINE 35 (0,5) Mars 5 Smith 6-10-5 R Williams (7)
13 /M SAFAR PARK 27 (7) W Bennet 7-10-4 ... B Calla (3) 61
14 P-28 NLIMMAY 110 M Bennes 6-10-0 ... D Parisis 87
14 Netholius 6-1 Derest 6-1 Abstract Her 7-1 Teresting 10-1

2-1 Natiogrity, 5-1 Derets Quest, 6-1 Alaskan Herr, 7-1 Topothenorthracorg, 10-1 Philodolps, Target Line, 18-1 others.

Express Gift, a leading fancy for Saturday's £60,000 Ladbroke hurdle at Leopardstown. has been forced to miss the race after damaging a muscle. The Mary Reveley-trained gelding will next run in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury on February 10.

LINGFIELD PARK

1,00 Distant Dynasty. 1,30 Star Talent. 2,00 Swynford Flyer. 2,30 Love Bird. 3,00 Shontaine. 3,30 Iron N Gold. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Explosive Power. 2.30 Creeking. 3.30 BROUGHTONS FORMULA (nap).

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.00 GUY MANNERING CLAIMING STAKES

8 00-6 SUPERLAD 5 (D.F.G) A Hermans (Bel) 4-7-12 J Charm 4 7-4 Inherest Maga. 7-2 Aston Manor, 5-1 Desart Dynasty 6-1 Ultra Beet Separtac, B-1 Ltil Boy

1.30 REDGAUNTLET SELLING STAKES (£2,259: 70) (10)

6 6SS- THORRY SISHOP 331 (V,C,S) J Braiger 5-8-12 . 6 SARSHOP 301 (B) J Braiger 5-8-12 J Dulen 7 10 030- DUSK IN BAYTONA 43 (D,F) C James 4-8-7 . . A McGlone 9 5-2 Peritous Plight, 7-2 Deepty Vale, 4-1 Dosk in Daytona, Stat Talent, 8-1 Deago Green, 18-1 Thorny Bishop, 15-1 Justinaans COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Murray-Smith, 11 winners from 51 moners, 21.6%; M Prescon, 16 iron 75, 21.3%; Lord Humingdon, 34 from 161, 21.1%; G Bussey, 5 from 27, 18.5%, Mass & Astenay, 8 from 47, 17.0%, M Johnston, 32 from 192, 16.5%.

JDCKEYS, J Fortune, 4 from 12, 33.3%, J Weaver, 49 from 214, 22.9%; T Acadey, 4 from 22, 18.2%, R Cochrana, 41 from 233, 17.6%, T Yes, 16 from 105, 17.0%, Mass Denaro, 3 from 18, 16.7%, J F Egan, 3 from 21, 14.3%

2.00 TALISMAN HANDICAP (£2,977: 1m 2f) (14) 1 01-0 WET PATCH 5 (CD.F.S) R Harmon 4-10-0 Mark Desart (7) 1 2 004- QUEENS STROLLER 45 (6) 1 Wal 5-9-11 P McCabe (3) 2 3 64-1 REVAL BID 7 (CD.F.S.S) Mrs N Macaday 8-9-11 (5e) T Astroy (7) 3

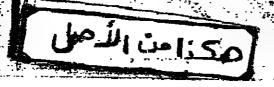
2.30 QUENTIN DURWARD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,867: 1m) (12)

3.00 WAVERLEY HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,656 61) (5)

1 200- SHOMTARE B9 (D.F.G) M Johnston 9-7 J Wesner 1
2 00-8 MAPLE BURL 7 S Dorr 8-11 W Woods 5
3 004- ROWLAWDSONS STUD 24 G L Morse 6-6 W Findon 4
2 65-2 BELLS OF HOLLAND 7 W Mais 8-4 Jean-Pierre Lopez 3
5 60-4 CASTLE GOVERNOR 6 P Haclam 7-10 M Baird (5) 2 7-4 Rowtendsons Stud, 9-4 Belfs Of Holland, 3-1 Stondame, 4-1 Castle Governo 33-1 Magde Burl.

1 411- BROUGHTONS FORMULA 23 (B.CD.F.6) W Masses 5-10-0 P McCate (3)

2 00-5 DVORAK 8 (F) R Harte 5-9-10 PMCGate (3) 3 302- DOCDANSTON FI YER 42 (V.S.) R Hollmobadd 4-9-3 R Cootagam 2 4 11-3 RED SYECTACLE 9 (BF. F, 5) P Hashari 4-9-0 M Baint (5) 4 5 42-6 ROWN (GGLD 9 (BF. E) A MORE 4-9-0 S Sanders 10 5 103-1 ERLOWG 7 (B.C.G) S Metter 6-9-8 (Sect. M Wightern 9 7 00-1 WOTTASHAMBLES 9 (CD.F, G) L Montague Half 5-9-6 (Sect.)



Celtic stand firm in battle with bigotry

CELTIC yesterday engaged in a struggle that will be even more prolonged and arduous than the quest for the Bell's Scottish League premier divi-sion title. The club has committed itself to confronting the sectatianism that is interwoven with football in the west of

A social charter, in draft form, has been issued in which Celtic pledge to carry out charitable work and oppose all forms of discrimination. A statement of worthy the bigoted elements in Glasgow are obdurate. The club, though, has already proved that there will be deeds as well

Before the Old Firm match last week. Fergus McCann, the Celtic managing director, insisted upon a minute's silence for the 66 Rangers' supporters who were killed in the Ibrox disaster 25 years ago. Attempts had been made to dissuade McCann by fig-ures from both clubs who felt that supporters could not be trusted to respect the memory

New arrival Charnley set for ban

DUNDEE are set to lose Chic Chamley, their midfield play-er, for three games after he was dismissed for the twelfth time in his career on Tuesday night - just days after joining

Chamley was ordered off for an elbowing offence after 67 minutes of the Tayside derby. Dundee United, who also had a player - Steven Pressley - sent off, won the match at Dens Park 2-0, thanks to two goals from Robbie Winters, to go top of the first division.

Charnley, who moved from £25,000 and scored on his debut last weekend in a 2-1 win over Hamilton, will be automatically suspended for the trip to Greenock Morton

He will also receive a twomatch ban, effective from January 23, that will rule him out of the Tennents Scottish Cup third-round trip to Brechin or Clyde and a league game. Jim Duffy. the Dundee manager, said: "His reputation goes before him. Anything he does is scrutinised."

adamant nonetheless, that the plan must go ahead; and if the minute's silence was not observed by every spectator, only a small minority breached it. Celtic's announcement yesterday was a demonstration that they will not let any feelings of relief over that success persuade them now to drop the

The club is prepared to ban from its ground supporters who indulge in sectarian chants and other offensive behaviour. "If people are abusive," McCann said, "it should be possible to identify them by their seat numbers and, at the very least, prevent them from renewing their season

"We can only do so much when it comes to changing the minds of mindless individuals, but it is up to us to try. We can't ignore it and say, This is just how we live."

McCann is particularly sensitive to the issue because although born in Scotland, he lived in Canada for almost 30 years before buying Celtic in the west of Scotland clearly

struck him anew.
The programme set out by Celtic, however, does not concentrate solely on behaviour within the ground, but pro-poses a series of initiatives. Players, for example, will visit a range of schools chosen to ensure that they meet and coach children from a variety of ethnic groups. The club's charitable work will also include organising holidays for disadvantaged Protestant and Catholic children in Northern Ireland.

Celtic's practice of flying the flag of Ireland is regarded as inflammatory in some quar-ters and the club was even prevented from doing so when spent last season based at the Queen's Park ground, Hampden Park.

McCann, though, is insistent that a recognition of the club's roots in the Irish immigrant community should be regarded only as a positive step rather than a provocative

The other half of the Old Firm was engaged in more familiar business yesterday Jardel, of Gremio, the Brazilian striker, visited Ibrox and a £2.5 million transfer to Rangers will be concluded if he can acquire a Portuguese passport. That would remove the need for a work permit, which players from outside the European Union require.



Wales hope Hughes's inimitable brand of aggression in attack will trouble the illustrious defenders of Italy

Hughes receives welcome back as Wales take on the Italians

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BOBBY GOULD, the Wales football manager, has included Mark Hughes in his squad to face Italy in Terni on January 24, ending what ap-peared to be a brief feud between the two men. The Chelsea forward's international career looked to be over when he declined to travel to Albania for Wales's final European championship qualifier in November, but Gould made it clear yesterday that there are no ill-feelings.

"I haven't spoken to Mark the squad when he reads his name on Teletext," Gould said, "but, as far as I'm concerned, everything else

under the bridge." The 17-man squad — another name will be added before the players fly to Rome on January 21 — contains eight of the team that drew 1-1 in including Mark Tirana, Pembridge, who scored the Wales goal in that game, who has missed Sheffield Wednesday's past nine matches with a

foot injury. He is expected to recover in time.

In addition to Hughes, seven of the players who were forced to withdraw from the game in Albania are named in the party. Three of them -Adrian Williams, of Reading, Kit Symons, of Manchester City, and Chris Coleman, of Blackburn Rovers - are cen-tral defenders, while the others are Barry Horne, Gary Speed, Ian Rush and Nathan Blake. Rush scored the only goal when Wales and Italy last met, in Brescia in 1938.

There is one new face, ty gosikeener, who will understudy Neville Soutball. 'Andrew Marriott's playing for Wrenham that week and I've seen Danny Coyne at Tranmere," Gould said. "I wanted to have a look at Darren." However, Eric Young, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Gareth Tayior, of Crystal Palace, are only in the standby pool of eight, while there is no place at all for Ceri Hughes, the Luton

Town midfield player. Gould also revealed that the WALES SOUAD

mbridge (Sheffield and (Limits Linded) seat). D Saunder

game had been hurriedly arthis fixture, but the Italians When I received it, I sounded out the players and they wanted the game to so ahead. in fact, when I told Barry Horne last night, his eyes lit up and that shows how much our players will value this

opportunity."
Part of the deal struck with the Italians is that they will make a return visit to the Principality within the next 18 months — possibly shortly before they play England in the World Cup qualifiers.

side would be meeting another Mediterranean nation in March and playing Switzer-

land away in April.

One problem for the Welsh manager might be another space of withdrawals, the game coming the week before the fourth round of the FA Cup and with any Coca-Cola Cup fifth-round replays scheduled for January 25, but Gould is hopeful that his plans will not be unduly hit.

"I'm sure some managers might be reluctant to release their players before the FA but I hope they undersaid. "It's officially an international week after all. If our game was against another side, it would be a different kettle of fish, but I think I should be given the chance to take my players to play what is one of the very best sides in the

"It will be a great opportuni-ty for the players, a great platform, because you don't get much bigger than Italy; but it's just as important for me because I want to get to.

PRICE EXCLUSES DELIVERY (£415), HUMBER PLATES AND ROAD PIND LICENCE.

Dominant Best helps W Indies put rest in perspective

FROM MEL WEBS IN SHARJASI

TWO DAYS to go, and the gap between West Indies and the other three teams in the World Cricket Masters series here is widening into a potentially embarrassing chasm. The whipping boys yesterday were Pakistan, who were tested then thoroughly bested by Best Carlisle Best that is, who left them battered and hanging desperately on to the ropes with a majestic 155 not out. Pakistan have been making

their first appearance in this ment, and have proved that even cricketing senior citizens can still have things to learn about the game. England deleated them by 65 runs in the first match of the tournament and West Indies gave them a 116-run thumping yesterday.

Zaheer Abbas and his men

have managed just one vic-tory, but, since it was over India, that will almost be consolation enough. They could even do it again when they meet in the third-place play-off match today. They may be playing only for hon-our, but, when these two come up against each other, honour is all that matters.

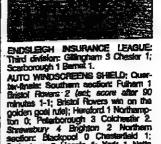
The game yesterday was cast out of the same mould as the previous five. The bowlers were little more than spearcarriers, willing and ready to stealers with bats for rapiers

swaggered onto the stage. Not, mind you, that there was anything very rapier-like about Best's innings, which beat Graham Gooch's 144 the the series. There is nothing very rapier-like about bludgeomed sixes, of which there were eight as well as five fours, into parts of the stadium that other batsmen could not

Best, 36, was simply irresistible. He warmed up nicely in a friendly slugging match with Vivian Richards while they were adding 98 for the third wicket, but, when Richards had gone, bowled by Zaman, he got seriously nasty.

His partner, the diminutive Kallicharran, batted with typically impudent grace, but was brutal hitting by Best. The pair put on 161 in a mere 17 overs, and Pakistan had the look of piece-rate net bowlers. Zaheer said between innings that they would be going for victory, but his words had a hollow ring. A flurry of early

wickets, shared by Marshall and Moseley, had Pakistan tolling at 33 for four, and, from then, some gentle and almost patronising bowling was the main reason for Pakistan getting as close to the target as



Tourny 0

VALCHALL CONFERENCE: Kettering 2

Northalch 2:
TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Second round replay: Brechin 0 Clyds 0 (Abandoned site 95min).

SELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Partick Thistle 0 Falkink 3; Raith Flowers 1 Cette 3. First division: Clydebank 1 Aircha 1 Cundes 0 Dundles United 2; St. Johnstone 6 Greenock Marton 1. Postponed: Durnbarton v Dunlemithal. Second division: Forter 0 East Fife 2. Postponed: Ayr v Clyde. Third division: Cowdenbash 1 East Stifting 4. Postponed: Abion Rovers v Caladoniary Thistle; Brechin v Alica.

Heripeschen ().
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE:
Frest divisions Nuverside Town 2
Festioned Heripe 1. UMLET SLASSEX COUNTY LEAGUE-Flost clivision: Peaconstant, and Tolscombs 5 Hossiem Value INVESTICAL SAD KENT LISAGE Eviption: Thermormed 2 Becks FA YOUTH CUP: Third round:

FOOTBALL

2CH00.5

IS BETTER LOOKING THAN THE VVV GOLF (mazpa) > (the rest)

Agree 0345 48 48 11

Disagree 0345 48 48 12

Don't know I need to have a closer look at the new 323 0345 48 48 13

Which Proced, High SPEED, HI-TECH TELEMEN

Scotland stand by Townsend against Ireland

THE Scotland rugby union selectors have stayed loyal to the bulk of the team that lost to Italy last weekend for the first match in the five nations' championship, against Ire-land in Dublin on Saturday week. Kenny Logan, who is dropped after winning 21 caps, is the main casualty from the defeat in Rieti, while the clarion call for the return of Craig Chalmers has been resisted. The selectors can only hope that their loyalty is not misplaced, and that those in the side who have had little competitive rugby recently, mainly because of injury, will

be ready.
There is one other enforced change, the recall of Ian Smith, of Gloucester, after the injury to Stuart Reid, and one change that was anticipated, the naming of Doddie Weir at lock in place of Scott Murray. Murray, who, like Weir, can play in the back row, is among the replacements.

After accepting that playing Italy without a recognised goalkicker was a mistake, one that the selectors felt cost them the chance of victory, Scotland have picked Michael Dods. the best person available in the circumstances. However, where to accommodate the Northampton player was the subject of considerable discussion during a lengthy selection meeting on Monday night.

Dods, who, along with Townsend, stood out for Northampton against Bath in

before Christmas, was almost picked at full back, where Rowen Shepherd has been given another chance. Having performed well on the right wing against Western Samoa in the autumn, he now switches across to displace Logan, who half expected his demise. Logan has lost some of his ebullience and, according to Jim Telfer, the chairman of ectors, needs to regain his appetite for the game.
Telfer hinted that the media

SCOLANDAR

attention enjoyed by the Stir-

ling County player, who, like Chalmers, writes a high-profile newspaper column and is constantly in demand for public appearances, had turned his head; however, he denied that it was a factor in either players' absence from the side.

Chalmers's outspokenness has not gone down well at Murrayfield, where he is regarded as a shop steward of the squad. In retaining, in his place, Gregor Townsend at stand-off half, alongside Bry-

the half backs should be given a chance to show their flair, something that they were not able to do against Italy because of the poor quality of Much will depend on

Townsend as a playmaker. He will have the advantage of a solid, if unspectacular, midfield beside him, and wings and a full back who have ability and pace.
Telfer lauded the defensive

qualities of the back division in general, and Scott Hastings in particular. Hastings was described as the best defensive outside centre in Scotland. He is there because, against Ire-land at Murrayfield and France in Paris last February, Scotland leaked two tries through the outside centre channel. "He is a good influence in organising defence, and the responsibility of outside centre is far greater than any other position in the back division." Telfer said.

ble to counter the threat of Neil Francis in the lineout. Weir has been distracted recently by his impending move to Newcastle and all that it implies in terms of contracts for club and country. He went on as a replacement against Italy and should respond to the challenge posed by Ire-land. Damian Cronin and Peter Walton were considered, but discounted because of

Weir's presence was inevita-



Victorious Exiles have nowhere left to roam

Scottish Exiles South of Scotland .

Richmond yesterday.

By MARK SOUSTER

IF THIS is the end of the Scottish inter-district rugby union champion-ship, at least in its present form, and thus the final curtain for the Scottish Exiles, then at least they departed with the perfect riposte to those who

maligned championship by convinc-

ingly beating the South of Scotland at

Scottish rugby, both domestically and in Europe, does not include the Exiles, who, since their creation in the early 1980s, have been an invaluable source of talent for Scotland. Jim Telfer, the Scottish Rugby Union's director of rugby, insists that there must be a future for them, but as yet cannot quite see how. Nor can Alistair McHarg, their manager, who is far more pessimistic. With no shop window, the players who qualify for Scotland will be lost.

The grand plan for the future of

Telfer, who was at Richmond, said: "I don't know what the answer is, but I would like to think there will still be some contribution they could make. The Exiles are an integral part of the Scottish set-up."

The game, which should have been a showpiece finale, was undermined by withdrawals from both camps, which sums up just how little a priority the championship is for players, despite being the likely route into Europe and the Scotland team. Still, there were a few internationals on view, with Hilton, Peters, Walton and Cronin, for the Exiles, opposing

the likes of Joiner, Weir and Hay.

Laing and Welsh traded penalty
goals in the first quarter before
Dixon scored the first of his two tries

for the Exiles after a break by Wynn. Laing converted. The South relied heavily on Weir for possession at the front of the lineout and he did not disappoint, but, for the most part, were fighting a rearguard

Leading 10-6 at half-time, the Exiles scored three more tries in the second half, the first by Aaron James, the Wasps centre, who linked well with his forwards. Patterson scampered over for the next and Dixon added his second after Wynn again had made the initial break.

The victory was the Exiles' eighth in a row spanning two seasons.

Telfer presented the cup to Eric Peters, but the celebrations were understandably a little flat.

OTHERS: Soutish Edies: Tries: Deon (2), James, Palasson, Conversions: Laing (4), Penulty goals: Laing (2), South: Penulty goals: Welsh (3), SCOTTISH EXELS: A Kerr (Moseley), M Kerrip (London Scottish), I Wynn (Orrell), A James (Wasps), G. Smith (Orrell); S Laing (Instoniers), D Patterson (Mast Harrispool); D Hilton (Bath), L Mair (London Scottish), M Stewart (Bischheart), P Welton (Newcastle), D Cronin (Bourges), K Stewart (Carolin), Deon (Bristol), E Peters (Bath, Captur) Mair replaced by D McGavin (London Scottish), Turini). replaced by D McGawin (London Scotten, Atmin).
SOUTH: G Altchinson (Kelso): C Joiner (Melrose), S
Nichol (Salkrid, D Grant (Hawck), K Sudrion
(Hawck): S Welsh (Hawck), K Reld (Hawck): G
Issac (Gels), J Hay (Hawck), S McColm (Selarin), S
Bennet (Kelso), R Brown (Melrose), G Welr
(Melrose), K Armstrong (Jed-Forest), R Kirkpethick
(Jed-Forest, capitalin) Brown replaced by I Ellot
(Hawlok, (Strain)).

Gay expects Lord moves transfer to protect to promote the insecure **England** roots of paid game prospects

By Philip Webster

A NATIONWIDE survey of rugby union clubs has found a widespread desire to retain amateurism in the game, it vill emerge today. In advance of the special general meeting of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in Birmingham on Sun-day, which will decide the new chairman of the RFU's executive committee and the degree of support for open rugby, the comprehensive study had discovered anger among the grass-roots. Clubs were upset by the lack

of consultation before the decision of the International Rugby Football Board, last August, to accept professionalism and a strong wish to protect the amateur game.

The survey has been con-ducted by Michael Lord, the senior Conservative MP and a Cambridge Blue. A fierce op-ponent of professionalism, Lord wrote to 1,700 clubs in England and received a good response. He is to unveil the results at a press conference at Westminster today.

Lord is expected to claim

that the survey backs his view that the RFU should continue to run the amateur game in England, with the professionals breaking away and forming their own union.

The special meeting, to which all clubs have been invited, will make key decisions on the game's future. It will vote on a motion tabled by Somerset calling for amateurism to be safeguarded.

Lord's survey, based on hundreds of replies from club officials, is understood to have found that junior clubs across the country felt they had been taken for granted and their future not given proper consideration.

Lord, who scored two tries as a centre in the University match of 1960, began the survey after condemning professionalism and being chal-lenged to "do something about

His study has uncovered fears that chibs will poach players, that they will be unable to afford to pay players, that players will be unable to have a career and at the same time play top-class rug-by, and the belief that volunteers who keep the junior game going will be reluctant to work in order to pay the BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RICHARD GAY, the former England rugby league full back, believes that his move to Castleford will promote his international career. The player, who yesterday signed a three-year deal with the club, said: "I really think that the move will give me a chance of international hon-ours. I did not think Hull were going anywhere.
"John Joyner and Cas

deford have given me that opportunity to progress my career. Hopefully, my goals will include achieving international honours." Gay, 26, who holds two

England caps, believes that his new side will be a force in the Super League this sum-mer. "I would say that Castleford will go very well," he said. "They have a few players injured at present but I am sure we will be a force to be reckoned with when the season starts." He joined Hull in 1989 from

Hull Boys ARL. In 184 appearances for the club, he scored 66 tries, mainly from full back. This season, he has scored ten tries from 13 appearances but has not played since injuring a hamstring before Christmas. Gay is ineligible to play for Castleford's first team this

season because his signing took place after the league and Challenge Cup deadlines. John Joyner, the coach, said: "Richard is a good attacking full back with plen-ty of pace. It is a shame that he cannot start with us this term but, while we hope for a cup run, the Super League is now league priority. Richard increases my options, but I am well aware that our squad still needs further strengthening."

Bradford Bulls have put Roger Simpson, their long-serving back, up for sale at £60,000. The decision came after a breakdown in talks between the club and the player regarding his future at Odsal Stadium, where he also

works as a groundsman.
The Bulls intend to extend players' contracts to a fulltime basis for the Super League, which begins in March. Simpson, 28, joined Bradford from Moldgreen. the amateur side, almost 11 years ago. He was selected for the Great Britain tour to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea in 1990 and played against France last year.

Ba6 Nc5

NCE?

Ra7

Nc3 Poss5

Chas

Kh7

c1Q

g6 Kh8

Qh1+

have engineered their demise. The Exiles duly retained the much-

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA)* Char-lone 92 Toronto 91: Atlante 104 Secremento 98, New York 96 Boston 93; Orlando 92; New Jersey 84, San Amorrio 88 Houston 82; Indiana 91 Delbas 84; Seetile 97 Milwaukse 92 1A Croppers 105 Princeris 100; Golden Sate 109 Vanicouver 103; LA Lakers 108 Manage 45 104

CRESTA RUN

ESCALANTE CUP: 1, C Mumerith (Switz) 2mm 03.26sec; 2, C Kopp (Switz) 2 04 03, 3, S Regger (Ger) 2:04 57.

CRICKET

HASARE: Tour match (final day of three):
England Under-19 278 and 204-7dec (M
Wood 79, D. Seles 43); Meshonzaland
Under-21 143 and 80-4, Match chrawn
SHARLIAH: World Chicket Mesterns: West
Index XI 255-3 (45 overs, C. Best 155 not
out, A Kalischarran 56 not out, IV A Richards
53); Paustan XI 179-8 (Aftab Baloch 51 not
out); West Indias won by 116 nurs.

FOOTBALL

Anglo-Italian Cup

PANISH CUP: Third round, first legs stico Madrid 1 Real Bets 1.

Acestico Matino II mera pares II. PORTUGUESE CUP; Fifth round: Sporting Lisbon 2 Beausta 1: Academica 2 Mertimo ICE HOCKEY

standers 3 Chicago 3; Philadelphia Anaheim 2; Hartford 5 Edmonton 1. MOTOR RALLYING

J-P Fonteney (Fr. Mitsusieh) at 2min 11sec.

3, H Mescucie (Jepen, Mitsusieh) at 425.

5, F Mescucie (Jepen, Mitsusieh) at 425.

6, F Langue (Fr. Cimoen) at 628. Motion-reposes: 1, D Trolli (R. Caghes) 7fr 14min 25ecs; 2, E Orioli (R. Yamesa) at 1 min 25ecs; 2, E Coroli (R. Yamesa) at 1 min 25ecs; 3, C Escuciro (Fr. Caghes) at 2 209.

4, J Ancerons (Sp. KTM) at 214; 5, C Soleio (Sp. KTM) at 2124. Overall positions: Cass: 1, Lartique 44/v 19min 00sec; 2, Wambergue at 54min 32sec; 3, Massucke at the 39min 55ec; 4, Vastanen at 1428, 5, Fonteney at 2,04-10. Motion-poles: 1, Orioli 49:16.40; 2, Amzarone at 42min 34sec; 3, Trolli at 5123; 4, Escurrot at 3hr 21min 43sec; 5, Sotelo at 335244

STRISKE PLESO, Slovaida: Cross country: World Cup: Men (50km): 1, V Sminov (kar) Ihr Sehmi 14 See: 2, B Dechle Root) 1:55:57.1; 3, N Lorason (5we) 1:57:45, 4, L TMogran (5we) 1:57:45, 4; 5, J Muchlegg (Ga) 1:57:88,9, 6, S Fauner (ij) 1:58:21 B. World Cup positions: 1, Dechle 660pts; 2. Sminov 506; 3, Fauner 35d; 4, 7 Alsgeard (Not) 250: 5, A Prolutorov-(Russ) 233; 6, J isometica (Fin) 221: Women (30km); 1, McCente (fin) 221: Women (30km); 1, McCente (fin) 221: Women (30km); 1, Tr. Scholler, 1, Leonard (fin) 1:17:22.8; 8, L W. Thauric (Austria) 1:17:52.8; 8, W. Thauric (Austria) 1:17:52.8; 8, W. Thauric (Austria) 1:17:52.8; 8, W. Hauric Cappositions: equal 1, Vaelbe and Eporova, 500; 3, N Gentribus (Russ) 235; 4, Belmondo 221; 5, L Leonard (Russ) 317; 8, Di Cente 295.

REAL TENNIS

OUSENS CLUB: BNB Resources Brit

KE PLESO, Slovakia: Cross coun

Deucher (Aus) and J Howell 6-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-5, Finat: Bray and Gooding at Wood and Philips 6-2, 0-6, 6-2, 6-1.

RIFLE SHOOTING

TRENTHAM: New Zeeland champion-shipe: Queen's prize (200 yerds); squal 1, 2 0 Mellett (LMRA) and, G Bellinger (NZ) 5.0.00ps. Other British: N Ball 50.8, N Brasier 50.5, J Scoble 50.3, Armada Cup (200 yerds aggregate); 1, K Meade (NZ) 100 18, 5 Ball 100 14, 800 yerds belt series: equal 1, G Cann (LMRA) and G Selfinger (NZ) 50 10. Bell 50.7, P Colory 50.7, S Clark 50 5, R Alfrent 50.5, R Betts 50.5, O yerds: 1, R Mayston (NZ) 50.9, 11, Bell 50.7.

RUGBY LEAGUE STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: Second di-Vision: Chorley 40 Highlield 14

RUGBY UNION WRIJ MIDWEEK COMPETITION: Pool A: Portypool 24 Cross Keys 18, Postponed: Abercynon v Bisina. Pool B: Llandowsy 18 Dunwert 60: Tenloy Utd 12 Nesteath 30. Pool C: South Wales Police 30 Cardiff Institute 15. Pool D: Mesterleg 30 Tondu 16; Ystradgynisis 27 Bonymsen 18.

SQUASH SSI. CLP: First round: Bromley Town 1 Bile Stockbrokers Lingfield 2; Brosbourne 2 Resbok Nottingham 1; Dutledd 0 JC; Lion Heise 3; Ponielisci 0 Jim Heil Sports Northern 3; Sigma Stringa Swartesa 1 Ogmore Velley Dragons 2; Lauchen Thillips Windows Chichester 2; Gannons Club bye; Jeanness Broom has

Indows Chichester 2 tembers Broom bye. TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: Euro/Airtoan Zorec Group three: Irsiand 3 Cyprus 0 (8 Berron bt A Morfleddeld 6-2, 6-1, O Casey 1st A Paperniches 6-1, 6-4; Casey and £ Collins bt Morfledelts and D Leondis 5-2 ret): Morseco 2 Greece 1; Moldova 2 Cyprus 1;

Zarobia 3 Dibousi 0; Carmercon 2 Estonia 1; Butgaria 3 Biotssens 0; Togo 3 Congo 0. MEI BOURNE: Men's tournement: Fest round; Y. Kafeinkov (Russ) bt M. Ferraira (SA) 6-1; 3-8. 8-2; A Agessi (US) bt P. Raiter (Aus) 7-8, 6-7, 7-8; M. Chang (US) bt S. Edosti (Swe) 8-2; 6-7, 6-4. AUCIG, AND: Men's tournement: Second round; J. Novak (C2) bt S. Pescosolido (R) 6-2; 6-3; G. Forget (Fr) bt F. Clever (Sp) 6-3; 6-4; M. Washington (US) bt 3 Derron (C2) 6-3; 6-4; J. Yanga (Peru) bt T. Enqvist (Swe) 7-5; 6-4.

6-3, 6-4; J Yanga (Peru) bt T Enqvist (Swe)
7-5, 6-4.
SYDNEY: International tournament Men:
First round: S Draper (Aus.) bt 8 Black (Zim)
4-6, 6-2, 7-5; P McEnroe (US) bt 8
Karbacher (Gen) 6-2, 2-6, 6-4; Second
round: G Menisseux (Cro) bt M Nommen
(Swe) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3; M Woodforde (Aus.) bt T
Hemman (GB) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 150tenbeng
(Aus.) bt K Kunsa (Slovekia) 2-6, 6-2, 7-6; T
Woodfondge (Aus.) bt S Lerseux (Can) 6-3,
6-4; T Mertin (US) bt C Costa (SD) 6-3, 3-6,
6-3; R Fromberg (Aus.) bt C Triens (EUS) 8-4,
6-1, S Draper (Aus.) bt R F Furian (I), 6-1,
7-6; G Russichid (GB) bt C Arriens (Gen) 6-0,
5-0, Women: Second round: M Selex (US)
bt D Monami (Bel) 6-1, 6-2; M.J Fernlandez
(US) bt A Costar (SA) 6-3, 6-2; L
Devenport (US) bt A Frazer (US) 6-3, 6-2; L
Devenport (US) bt A Frazer (US) 6-3, 6-2; L

6-2.
HOBART: Women's tournement: Second round: A Suplyama (Japan) bit K Godnidge (Aus) 7-6, 6-2; J Wiesner (Austria) bit A Elwood (Aus) 7-6, 6-4; M Endo (Japan) bit L Ghiradi-Rubbi (Fr) 6-3, 6-3

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEAFOODS: Treble chance: 24pts 5246,25, 23 tig 75. Four draws; £1.00. Ten homes: £37.45 Five aways (paid on lour correct) £33.56. VERNONS: Trable chance: 24pts £73.35, 23 £3 45. Ten homes: £48.90 Five aways: \$582.00. ZETTERS: Trebie chance: 24pts \$26.60, 23 \$0.80 (two dividends only). Easy sto £49.00 Four draws: \$1.60. Eight homes: \$23.30 Four aways (paid on one correct) \$1.10 Goals galors (paid on 161 goals) \$2.05. Lucky numbers: \$7.18.36.11.4.33.



If you know that you can give your partner a ruff, when you do so, you should indicate which suit you would like him to return. The standard agreement is that, if you play a high card in the suit that partner is ruffing, you would like a return in the higher ranking of the other two suits (trumps are excluded) and vice versa. However, sometimes, a player giving a ruff is unsure

which suit to request. Have a look at how the player getting the ruff helped his partner on the hand below: Dealer North Love all **+Q874 ₹10** +AB63 ◆KQ75 2. N **\$32**

VAK8842 7975 W E • KQ S +AKJ105 **#QJ3**

+J 103

South arrived in Four Spades

Contract: Four Spades by South

after North had opened One Diamond and East had overcalled Two Hearts (weak). supported to the three level by West East - West were Nilson and Hallberg, the Sweden international pair. West hit on the imaginative lead of the ace of clubs, What should East discard on this trick?

East found the excellent play of the king of hearts. East could see that, if West had the queen of hearts. East could out him in with a heart to get a second club ruff; but, if West held the queen of hearts, he would be nervous of playing a high club on the second round of the suit, in case East underled the ace of hearts and enabled South to score the

king. By discarding the king of hearts, East made it clear to West that he could request a heart return if he had the queen. If East had had AKQ of hearts, he would have discarded the queen so that

West could ask for a heart

return holding the jack.

Lead: Acc of Clubs

Good play, to no avail. As West could not even best dummy's ten of hearts, there was never any danger of an accident. He continued with the two of clubs at trick two and East - West held the contract to ten tricks, like everyone else.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MUTASE

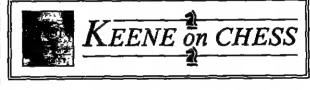
a. A Muslim law b. An enzyme

c. An old Burmese coin HAMAMELIS a. Homet's "honey" b. A tree-nymph

c. A yellow shrub

a. A lobster b. A waitress c. A pickpocket HEVEA

a. A rubber tree b. An equine fever c. The Spartan greave Answers on page 42



18 Nd8

22 Nxc4

23 Ob3

26 Rc2

27 Rxe5

31 Ob7

32 Qxe7

34 Oxf5+

35 Qf7+

38 Kuth1

19 N2c4

By Raymond Keene CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hastings wrap-up

conclude my coverage of the Hastings Centenary tourna-ment with another win by grandmaster Tony Miles. His combative style always ensures that games involving him will be full of interest,

whatever the result. In this match, Julian Hodgson, the former British champion, attempts to cling to the gambit pawn in the Queen's Gambit Accepted. Thwarted in this initial am-

bition, he consoles himself with the creation of two connected passed pawns on the queen's flank, but White's overall control of terrain in the centre leads to the win of a pawn and a convincing victory, while Black's passed pawn remain in a state of blockade.

White: Tony Miles Biack: Julian Hodgson Hastings Premier January 1996 Queen's Gambit Accepted

Nf3 2 d4 4 e3 5 a4 7 b3 **Bb4+** 8 Bd2

10 bxc4

12 Qa4+

13 c5

15 Be2

Bxd2+ NIC7

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Diagram of final position

Times chess book Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, The Times Winning Chess, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

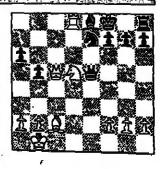
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

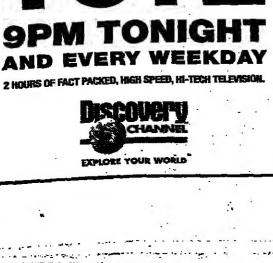
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

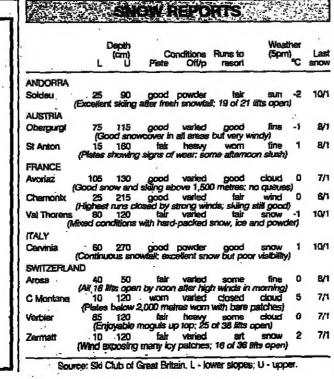
White to move, This position is from the game Gufeld - Plaskett, Hastings Premier, 1986. James Plaskett is one of Great Britain's most enterprising grandmasters, but here, he is on the receiving end of a combination from Eduard Gufeld, the well-known chess grandmaster and raconteur. White

to play and win. Solution on page 42





DISCOVERY DATA: LONGEST MARRIED SPACEFLIGHT: USSR 1995: 437 DAYS



Champions' prize in the hands of pot luck

trophy? A dedicated rugby supporter who followed every kick and spit of the the Heineken Cup match last weekend between Cardiff and Toulouse just could not believe his eyes. "Did you see that?" he asked, as Emile N'Tamack, the Toulouse captain, hauled the trophy into the air to

celebrate victory. "It's the most bizarre thing I've ever seen. What kind of a cup is that?" Well, apparently it is the kind of cup that is worth £30,000, weighs in at seven kilograms and stands 50 centimetres high. Somewhere in the design are to be found a rugby ball, goalposts, a star or two from the European Union flag and a strong dose of the

Heineken logo. Would you, though, want it on your mantel-piece? Probably not, for

the world of sporting cups, trophies. shields and medals is a strange. glittering and, all too often, ghastly one. I blame the Victorians. A century and more ago, they were making desperate efforts to ring-fence their concept of the gentleman amateur. By mid-Victorian times, athletic contests were established on the programme of almost every town and

Recent research has claimed that squash is the second most de-

manding sport after boxing.

The news will not come as a

surprise to Del Harris, whose battered career could return

neatly to square one at the QM

national championships in

Birmingham this week, nor to

those who watched in despair

as Harris, with the same

calculated independence that

characterises his squash, set

about vandalising the future

Harris was national cham-

so neatly laid out before him.

pion for the first time eight

years ago when he was 18 and such a prodigious talent that

the inevitable epithet. "the next

Jonah Barrington", was more

a statement of fact than an

article of faith. Harris was

sional Sunshine Circuit in

South Africa when he was 15

and won the Drysdale, the

equivalent of the Wimbledon

junior championship, four

matter of time before the son of

a professional footballer from

Dedham, in Constable coun-

try, became world champion.

Then a funny thing hap-

pened. The next Jonah disinte-

grated and was reformed as

ever mind the game, what village festival and celebration. Every did you make of the event advertised prizes to pull in the contestants, and the only way to cope with this within the amateur ethos was to replace them with prizes that were purely honorary - caps, shields and medals.

One of the curiosities of 19thcentury trophies is that, whatever they looked like, they were almost always known as "cups", but there was often nothing that

could, even in theory. hold a liquid. In fact, these "cups" were really free-standing and often ornate sculptures. Earticularly on athletics, were disturbed when these cups became the targets of "pot-hunters", and scandalised when the hard-won amateur prites started turning up in pawnbro-

The London Athletic Club went as far as to introduce small golden shields for watch

chains as prizes, stating that they would be attractive to even the "most sordid of pot-hunters" - and probably in the hope that such delicate trophies would not end up in the pawn shops. A surprising number of sporting trophies have, though, sadly ended up in thieves' kitchens - so many have been stolen that it almost ranks as a sport in itself.

Del Boy insists that

he is back on the

straight and narrow

Del Boy, the hard-drinking,

hard-partying, couldn't-give-a-monkey's. Essex lad.

Squash? Who needs it? Hav-

ing belatedly discovered life

outside his four walls, Del Boy

wanted to reclaim all those lost

closing times; and he did so

with the vengeance of de-

one had come along at that

prived youth.

greeted with disbelieving eyes



The original English FA Cup, once described as a "modest silver bauble", was snatched from a shop window in 1895 and never recovered. There was quite an argument about whether it should be replaced by something far grander, but, in the event, the FA decided on an exact replica, even down to the names

engraved upon it. The Ascot Gold Cup vanished in 1907 from the Royal Enclosure while King Edward VII was in attendance, and it, too, was never seen again.

The Lambion Gold Cup, which was awarded in 1924 on the spin of a coin after a dead heat, disappeared in 1941. The Grand National Cup followed it in 1951 and the solid gold Derby Cup in 1955. The Schweppes Gold Trophy, a solid gold statuette of a horse and jockey, galloped into the unknown in 1963, and the Queen's Trophy, awarded for Ascot's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, followed it in 1977. The Rugby League Cup, an elaborately embossed trophy standing 2h 6m high, went missing from a Bradford hotel in 1970. It was found 20 years later by a motorist who stopped by a roadside to answer a call of nature. Most famous of all, of course, is the small, elegant, golden Jules Rimet Trophy, the football world cup, which was stolen in

March 1966 and found just a week

صكذامن الأصل

later by a dog called Pickles. Perhaps the de-signers of the Heineken Cup intended it to be so hideous to discourage potential thieves. Top sportsmen often

betray a healthy indifference to the baubles of their victories. They are as likely to throw them into the back of a drawer as to dust and polish them every day. them is the victory, not silver-plated Ron Clarke, the

multi-world recordbreaking runner, who frustratingly missed out on winning an Olympic gold medal, tells a wonderful story about Emile Zampek, who won four, Clarke had visited the old Czech champion while racing in Prague. As he was leaving at the airport, Zatopek pressed a small package into his hand with the instruction that he was country. Clarke opened the parcel after take-off. Inside was one of Zatopek's 10,000 metre Olympic golds, with a simple note to the man "who really deserved it".

The Olympics have so far avoided allowing the names of sponsors to creep on to their medals, but many cups and trophies exist primarily as a vehicle to push the image of the sponsor or patron — particularly, as with the Heineken

European Cup, When the event is televised. Sport, though, is nothing if not unpredictable. At a glittering exibition of trophies called Sporting Glory. at the Victoria and Albert Museum a couple of years ago, could be found a life-size sculpture of an eagle made in black marble. It was a special commission ordered by Adolf Hitler to celebrate the antici-

pated triumph of the

leading German 100

metre backstroke

swimmer at the European championships in Magdeburg in 1934. The trouble was that the German

FA Cup: retained its

did not win. This Third Reich example of the trophy-maker's art ended up on the mantelpiece of one John Besford, a backstroke swimmer from Newcastle.

JOHN BRYANT

Putting on a brave show

First Person Plural: Invasion of Edinburgh. Radio 4, 9.30am.

This audio diary chronicles a plucky theatrical venture that ended up almost as flat as a pricked balloon. It is the antithesis of those Mickey Rooney/Judy Carland musicals where stage-struck teenagers hit the big time overnight. The eponymous invaders — amateurs, with one exception — performed their sci-fi parody; Cosmic Brain Suckers, on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The reviews were not ecstatic. "Aids is funnier," said one. Audience numbers rose and fell like the track of a big dipper. Cash ran out. The behaviour of the one professional actor so inflamed Sarah, actress and co-director, that her thoughts turned to murder. It is not universally true that there is no business like to murder. It is not universally true that there is no business like

The Airport Radio 4, 6.30pm

An ancient poser is resurrected by this comedy series: can we always trust a studio audience? It is a tricky business, evaluating studio laughter. It can be a way of expressing gratitude at being invited to what is a free show. It can be a response to a director's plea to the audience to help to jolly things along. And, of course, some laughter is 100 per cent genuine, and we listeners should not feel guilty about joining in. Whatever provoked the non-stop approbation, I have rarely heard such hilarious approval as that with which tonights audience salutes the jokes in this resumed series about the staff at a matheuse of an airport.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00em Clive Water 6.30. Chite Evens 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa l'Anson, incl. at 12.30-12.46pm Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Newsbast and at 1,15 The Net 2,00 Micky Campbell 4,00 Mark Goodse, incl 5,30-5,45 Newsbest 7,00 Evening Sesson. Placeloo and Foo Pigisters 9,00 Collins and Maconile 10,00 Mark Raddille Bildnight Claire Surgess

RADIO 2

FM Stareo. 6.00mm Sareh. Kennedy 6.15 Thought 7.30 Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce, Incl. at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimsny Young 2.00pen Debber Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Change et Oglethorpe. Pinal episode 7.30 Devid Alan 9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Latino Nuevo 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05em Steve Madden, incl. at 1.30 Pausa for Thought 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.05em Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakdast Programme, Ird 6.55, 7.25 racing preview 6.35 The Megazine, incl 10.35 Euronews 11.30 Gut Reaction 12.00 Middley with Meir, incl 12.24pcm Moneycheck 1.15 Ententainment News 2.06 Ruscoe on Five, incl at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 3.46 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, Incl 5.46 Entertainment News 7.00 News Estra 7.35 Oriclest's World Cup. The one-day event in 1963 8.05 Women on Top 8.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Estra 12.05em Night Moves 2.05 Up Af Night

TALK RADIO

5.00em Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James

All times in GMT. 5.00em News 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday

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The Learning World 3-30 Network UK 4-00 News 4-15 The World Today 4-30 News in German 5-00 Europe 5-30 Rusiness 6-45 Sport 6-00 News 7-03 Outlook 7-25 Words of Feth 7-30 John Peel 8-00 Newshour 9-00 World News 8-05 World Business Report 9-15 British 9-30 Meridian 10-00 Newdesk 10-30 The World Today 10-00 News 11-15 Network UK 11-45 Health Matters Midnight Newsdesk 12-30em On the Move 12-45 British Today 1-00 News 1-15 Press Review 1-15 Surviving the 20th Century 1-45 Godbal 2-00 News 3-16 Press Review 1-15 Surviving the 20th Century 1-45 Godbal 2-00 News 3-16 Sport 3-30 Feth Carew 3-00 News 3-15 Sport 3-30 Feth nv 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Feb Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today.

4.00em Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Balls Concert, Russian music 10,00 Michae Mappin 1,00em HRs Through the Night VIRGIN RADIO

6.00mm; Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Sainner 12.00 Graham Deine 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00mm Robin Banks

6.00am On Air. Rachmannov (Great Doxology, Vespers); Liszt (Feno Concerto No 2 in A); Clementi (Sonata in B flet, Op 24 No 2); Fella (Nights in the Gardens of Spaint); Johann Strauss, son (Morning Papers); Biber (Sonata vicino representative in A)

Jack on the perfect 5th 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gembaccini. Borodin (Polovisian Dances, Prince igor): Scarlatti (Sonata in E); Anon (Ave Maria gracia piene: O Maria stella maris); Domenico Scarlatti (Stebat

Buonamente (Carzonà a 6; Ave Maria: Pater noster); Ditteradori (Harp Concerto); 12.00 Composer of the West: Mozart. Nicholas Till present extracts from Die Entitihrung

extracts from Die Entlührung aus dem Serali

1.00pm Opern Mattinder Beetrloe di Tenda. Belfini's tragic opera about a weelthy widow abendoned by her second husband for her lady-in-waiting. Mariella Devia, soprano, Etore Kim, baritone, Mifea Shigematsu, mezzo, Luca Canonic, benor, Fran van Alen, tenor, Netherlands Radio Choir and Orchestra under Kees Bakels

3.40 A Series of Intervals. Adjian Jack yields to the mirror 6th

3.45 Viedhmir Overhaniltov. A concert of Russian plano

showpieces at the Glories of the Keyboard Festival in Manchester 5.00 The Music Machine, 1840-

5.15 in Tune, presented by Linda Omiston, Mendelssohn (Hebrides Overture): Beethoven (Violin Sonata in A minor, Op 23); Ravel (Rapsodie espagnole) Ruelo from Snape. A concert from the 1994 lestival Martin Jones and Gordon Fergus-Thompson, planos; Britten Sinfonia under Nicholas Cleobury, Britten

(Johnson over Jordan); Poulenc (Concerto for two plance in D minor); Milhaud (La Création du monde); Saint-Saëns (Carnival of the Sanit-Saens (Carnival or the Animals); Ravel (Le Tombeau de Couperin) 9.25 Calife Souri. Seen Street investigates where history ends and fanitasy begins in St.

avid's 9.45 Bassoon and Plano Garett Bassoot and Planto Garett Newmen, bassoon, and Suzanne Creetham, plano, perform Hindemith (Sonata); Osborne (Rhapsody for bassoon solo); Vinter (Revene); Pickard (The Phagotus of Alpanio); Saint-Sains (Sonata in G) (fr)

Seans (Sonale in (5) (f)

10.35 A Series of Intervals. Adriar
Jack examines the minor 6th

10.45 Night Waves, The Czech
songwiter Vadimir Meta in
conversation with Patrick

Wright
11.30-12.30em The BBC
Orchestras. The BBC
Philiparmonic under Jiri
Belohlavek. Strauss (An

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hit the wall before bouncing back it. I'd had enough." By Christmas 1992, Harris's athletic 6ft 2in frame had ballooned to 15 stone, earning him the nick-name Mr Blobby at the Lexden Squash Club, his home base, and his world ranking had sunk to the low 30s. His friends tried to counsel him, without success. "He is very single-minded and he just wouldn't listen." Dave Clarke, the dub pro and an old mentor, said. "He had to work it out for himself." Harris cannot recall the exact moment that he managed the

Andrew Longmore on how the 'new Jonah Barrington' of squash

What started as a slipped disc in the back, the first serious injury of his career, turned rapidly into a ruptured mind and a haemorrhaged career. Fitness went, discipline evaporated and a spiral of defeat, disappointment and calculation. Having to borrow gered by a headlong dash for the traditional pleasures of the to qualify for tournaments for the first time since he was 17, young and eligible. He also the stark realisation that he suffered a bout of Bell's Palsy. was trained to do nothing else. a viral infection, that para-All pointed the way back. His obstinacy and determination, lysed half of his face for three forces of destruction in his "I was still playing." Harris dark days, did the rest. said, "but I was just going through the motions. If any-

"It wasn't easy because, though I was hitting the ball well, I had just forgotten how to win," he said. "It was very time and offered me somefrustrating. If I'd have lost a thing else, I would have taken couple of matches along the way. I could have packed it in." Reaching two quarter-finals early in 1993 gave Harris the encouragement to train harder than ever through the summer and his confidence returned slowly with his fitness. Looking back now, Harris's strong face and measured tones betray a mixture of confusion and puritanical embarrassment.

> "I should have taken a break from squash, but I didn't want my ranking to drop," he said. "At the time, I was under quite a lot of pressure because everyone was looking to me to be the next world champion. I felt that most when I began to expectations started to hit

ASSUMPTIONS that the QM

national championships, that

start at Edgbaston Priory.

Birmingham, today, would

consolidate a new English

hierarchy at the head of Brit-

ish squash have been reduced

in the men's championship:

first, by the emergence of a

Scot as top seed; and second.

by the late withdrawal of the

Simon Parke, the No 3 seed,

The Scottish challenge, from

Peter Nicol, Z2 and No 4 in the

world, could produce the first

British champion from north of the border since the event

began as the British closed

championship in 1974. He was

too good for the English at the

Mahindra Challenge in Born-

bay, the last important tour

Nicol is far from safe from

surprises. Nick Taylor. of

Manchester, a finalist last

year, is in his quarter of the draw, along with Mark

Cairns, who many considered

unfortunate to miss selection for the England squad that

event of 1995.

because of appendicitis.



home and I inought. Hey, I'm

Before, the game just came naturally. 1'd never go on court with a game plan. Now, change my style to suit different players and I know what I've been through and why I'm doing it."

Few, though, would have expected Harris to crown his

won the world team champ-

ionship in November. With

Parke out, the scheduled semi-

final opponent for Nicol is

Stephen Meads, who is trying

to become the first man to

The bottom half of the men's

draw is scheduled to produce

a semi-final between Del Har-

ris and Mark Chalener, voted

the Sports Writers' Associa-

tion's newcomer of the year.

The women's field contains

four former champions, with

Cassandra Jackman, the

world No4 and winner in

1993, scheduled to piay a final

against Suzanne Horner, the

world Nob and witner in

1994. Fiona Geaves, the de-

fending champion, is due for

Jackman's semi-final, with

Sue Wright, the champion in

1992, expected to meet Horner.

LEADING SEEDS Men. 1. P. Novil Scotland 2. T. Hortz (Essen), 4. M. Chaloner Curcolnsten, 5. M. Carms (Northere, 6. P. offrson West), 7. S. Houde Sentence, 6. D. Moderings (Sumply) Women: 1. L. Lacenze, Personal Card Women: 1. L. Lacenze, Personal Card (Northeresis), 7. Sentence, 1. S. J. Martin (Northeresis), 7. S. Modern, 5. J. Martin (Northeresis), 6. C. Charmer Suspens 7. P. Modern (Super), d. S. Stander Scotland)

successfully defend the title.

Nicol aiming to spike

the English challenge

BY COUN MCQUILLAN

resurgence quite so emphatically, by reaching the final of the World Open in November. The manner of his defeat, by Jansher Khan, in four tight games and 101 minutes, confirmed Harris's place among the heirs to the great world

ships, depleted by the with-

champion.

drawal of Simon Parke. should hold no fears for the British No I. The spirit of Del Boy remains, but within reason. "I know when to have a drink and when not to," he said. "I suppose I was rebel-ling really. I don't feel the urge to do that any more. I'm having a good time playing

The national champion-

WORDSPATCHING Answers from page 41 MUTASE (b) Any enzyme that brings about a dismutation reaction, from the Latin mutare to change. "Addenyde mutase brings about the Cannizzaro reaction. Here, two molecules of an aldenyde undergo an oxido-reaction."

HAMAMELIS (c) A shrub or small tree of the genus so called, which is native to North America and eastern Asia, belongs to the family Hamamelidacene, and includes several species bearing yellow flowers late in winter before the leaves appear; a witch-hazel. From the Greek for a mediar. "The tion Hamamelin is used for piles mostly in form of

(b) Formerly, a wantress in one of the restaurants of J. Lyons & Co. Lid. London, a Lyons tearoom. Because she was "nippy" on her feet, "His hands stuck out in front of him like a Nippy carrying a tray."

(a) A South American tree of the genus so called, belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae, and having milky sup that provides rubber. From here the French version of the native name in French Guiana. The exudation is known as herea-latex, since Herea brasiliensis is only one of some four hundred plant species which elaborate juices containing rubber."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Rzeño Kzeß; 2. Nc?o wins the black queen.

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concert of Russian niano 5.55em Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing, Incl. weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, Incl. 7.30, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts 9.30 First Person Plumi. See Choice 4.45 Short Story: So When It Rains, What Then? by Jean Clayworth. Read by Paul Clayworth. Read by Paul Young S.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Jackie Hardgrave 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather 6.00 Str O'Clock News 6.30 The Airport. See Choice 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Clever Girls and Lost Boys. Sarah Dunent investigates the mounting evidence that both boys and girls do better insingle-sex schools

9.30 First Person Plural. See Choice 10.00-10.30 News; King Street Junior (FM cnly), Internal Inquiries School comedy with Karl Howman and James Grout (5/6) (/) 10.00 News; Delly Service (LW) 10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only) 10.30 Women's Hour, Introduced by Jenni Murray, Serial by Jenni Murray. Serial Michael Maloney reads Kate Senton's cornedy of love and

manners Lions and Liquonce.

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12,00 News; You and Yours 12,25pm The Train New Sho

12.25pm The Train New Showing.
John Hursley sis back to lake a train journey shough recollections of films past (r) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archem (r) 1.55 Shopping Forecast 2.00 Newing Blood Sugar, by Lee Hall, Jill is 14, overveight and obsessed with lood. With Sharon Percy and Charlie

Sharon Percy and Charlie 3.00 News, The Atternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan 4.00 News 4.05 Kalelooscope. Paul Alien reports on a

single-sex schools 8.00 Asia Gold, Edward Stourton travels to South Korea where state direction, rather than a free market, has dragged the country from poverty to prosperity in three decad a.45 Abstincts's Foot, John McKay's popular reminiscences of his comically dreary and awloved East Lothian brokerd. boortyped

9.00 Does He Take Sugar?
Presented by Frederick Dove
9.30 Kaleidoscope 9.50 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Book at Bedtime: The Harpole Report, Alistan McGowan reads JL. Carr's comic classic (9/10) Boy Rarethres introduces

11.00 Ray Bradbury Introduces
Tales of the Bizarre:
Skeleton. Ray Bradbury
introduces the last of sx of.

ns short stones
11.30 Ad Lib (FM only)(r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News, incl 12,27sm Weather
12.30 The Late Book Maybe the
Moon, Shelley Thompson
reads Armistead Malpin's
story (4/10)

story (4/10) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 196; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE MW 688, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55cm). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.6; MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1099. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Monty, Rosembry Smith, and Susan Thomson

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Marie Carlotte Comment of the
Social engineering and the Singapore girl

ust when you thought it might be safe to dip one timid little tiger paw into the Far East, along comes Under The Sun (BBC2) to tell us that this stakeholder" stuff is not all it is cracked up to be. Tony Blair will not be best

At first glance, Singapore Singles looked like yet another film about dating agencies. And why not — it must be a good three weeks since Modern Times tackled the subject. High time we had another film about three lonely bods pursuing the search for the

The Labour leader's noisy new enthusiasm for welfare Orientstyle gave the programme a relevance that its makers can never have dreamt of. New Labour new Britain new set of social problems.

For Singapore turned out not to be Elysium after all. Paradoxically, just as we are all encouraged to of television advertisements I can't

6.00am Business Breakfast (70053)

9.10 Kilroy (\$) (2106985)

weather (13322614)

7.00 BBC Breakfast (Ceelax) (29060324)

BBC₁

19.90 News (Ceelax) and weather (5196891) 19.05 Cen't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6343072)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (51850)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6489053) 12.05pm Pebble Mill with guests James Whale and Roy Marsden (a) (9627459) 12.50 Regional News and

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (94481)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (a) (64484140) 1.50 The Flying Doctors (Ceefax) (a) (1559614) 2.35 This is Your Life (f) (Ceefax) (a) (4645817)

3.30 The New Yogi Bear Show (r) (77770492) 3.35 The Morph Files (s) (2199256) 3.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1168904) 4.10 Highlander (Ceefax) (s) (5110607) 4.35 The Really Wild Show (Ceefax) (s) (9115169)

5.00 Newsround (Ceeiax) (4573091) 5.10 The Demon

6.00 Sbx O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (121)

8.00 The Vet starring Suzanne Burden, Drama series ser

8.50 Animal Hospital Herose, Rolf Harris reflects on

9.30 French and Saunders. Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders with more comedy sketches and songs:

in a Devon veterinary practice. Jenniter Holt is well-

accustomed to being treated as an outsider by the locals, but when she tackles the Whitton dog fighters she realises just how dangerous country life can be. (Ceefax) (s) (487324)

some heartwarming stories from past visits to the pets and vets of the Harmsworth Hospital in

London. With Steve Knight and Main McHafile: (Ceefax) (s) (541904) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceelax), regional news and

They set their sights on Met Gibson's Highland apic,

Braveheart, Jennifer has a "Jackie O" day, white Dawn is transformed into the likeness of the loelandic singer Bjork. Patsy Kensit is footherdy enough to be their guest. (Caetax) (s) (10362)

A painful choice for the Stewarts (10.00pm)

debate with a panel of prominent public figures and an invited audience (Ceefax) (9515256)

tien Burstyn, Teri Gerr, Alan Bates, Ronald Hines,

warmith and trust in the relationship between two

suburban families begins to fall apart when a sinister British intelligence agent enters their lives. Directed by Anthony Page. (Ceetex) (284817)

Daniel Benzali and Sammi Davis. The former

10.00 Inside Story: A Peaceful Exit. (Ceefax)

10.50 Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs a political

11.55 FiLM: Pack of Lies (1987). Television film starring

Headmaster (Ceefax) (s) (7724782)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Caefax) (s) (151879)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (701)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (8) (985)

weather (3985)

7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (5091)

3.05 Timekeepers presented by Bill Dod (5851169)

much looking West, at least by its young women. Singapore's women, we learned, are now educated, independent and rich...which frightens the beck out of Singapore's men, who are also educated and rich but because of the housing system are often still living with mum and would like a

wife cast in traditional, Far East

mould. Those Singapore Girl airline ads have a lot to answer for. But short of a couple of jumbo jets full of gorgeous, submissive air hostesses landing at Changi airport that just ain't going to happen. What is going to happen is that the Singapore Government. which believes the family unit takes the place of a welfare system. has intervened to encourage its young people to get on with it. "Life will be lonely without a family —

don't leave it too late" warn the sort

look East, Singapore's little prob-lem seems to stem from rather too lar favourite was one discouraging over-pickiness about prospective partners: "Why not reality? You could wait a lifetime for a dream." That sort of pragmatic approach gets you into trouble at parties.

> atrimonial policy is affected by the SDU, which is not something you get a nasty dose of but the Social Development Unit or, as it is unofficially known by its members. Single, Desperate and Ugly. The problem, it appears, is that Singapore's young women have imported only half the lifestyle of their Western counterparts and are stuck at the girls dancing round their handbags stage.

They would rather die than be bought a drink by a man and run a mile if a chap turns up for a first date without a chaperone. One girl even complained when, the day after returning from an SDU-

REVIEW



organised "cruise", a shy young man (shyness is a big problem, apparently) plucked up the courage to ring her up. Was she grateful? She was not: "Far too soon." Stakeholder or not, the shelf

At the end of Jenny de Yong's witty and enjoyable film, a pos-sible solution to all our ills occurred to me. If the Singapore Government could send someone over to show us how to be rich and prosperous and have 100 per cent employment ... we'll send them Cilla Black and a tanker full of Bacardi and Coke.

Quite what the answers are to the problems presented in Christo-pher Hird's disturbing film for Dispatches (Channel 4), only J.K. Galbraith knows . . . but more of him later. Hird's specific subject was the persecution of elderly people by children mounting sustained campaigns of harassment and abuse that, for the recipients at

least, border on terrorism. But the council estates he had to visit to meet what one community policeman described as "the prey-ers and the preyed-upon" were already familiar. They were the same estates documentary makers have visited to make films about "joyriding", single young mothers, stray dogs and a host of other serious social ills. It was "underclass" time again.

besieged victims, bricks through windows are now old hat for young hooligans. These days it's live rats through the letter box, fox heads in the gardens and dog muck smeared on handrails.

Some will have found Hird's coaxing of the young protagonists distasteful but it worked - out of the mouths of lager-swilling, deadeyed babes came the confessions. As for the reasons why, it was the normal toss-up between "she was doing my head in" and "it was something to do". Infinitely depressing.

t was left to J.K. Galbraith to pull the strands of the evening together, as BBC2 continued its new year campaign to keep our brains up late with The Big Idea. If you didn't have a basic grounding in Keynesian economic theory you were in trouble with this one. Neither Galbraith nor his intermised much for the layman and as I am someone who hung on by his economic finger-tips, my summary should be treated with caution.

Galbraith, it seemed, was in chipper mood — strikes in France, new Labour in Britain, even a swing back to the Democrats in America — things, he thought, were finally going his public sector way. That was the good news for Tony Blair; the bad news was that he thought there were no lessons to be learned from the East. Enthusiasm for eastern systems of familial support he described as a "wonderful way of escaping from selfishness".

But the excluded underclass had to be brought back into society and in that gentle, almost hypnotic Canadian brogue, Galbraith described how. "Progressive income tax - one of the great civilising influences of all time." it's the way he tells 'em.

in Lessim des

hares fall

ers lift off

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expands

श्राप

BBC2

6.00am Susiness and World Nice Work (78695) 7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefex and signing) (6440459)

7.15 Lassie (354237) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Hero Turties (f) (7611492) 8.05 Blue Peter (f) (5671508) 8.35 The Record (s) (9855343) 9.00 The Little Train to Lynton (f) (81362) 9.30 Seabrook's Year (f) (94324) 18.00 Playdays (f) (s)

10.25 FILM: Belts of San Angelo (1947) staring Roy Rogers. A musical western directed by William Witney (5865091) 11.40 The Fugitive (b/w)

12.30pm Working Lunch (s) (98140) 1.00 Metvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams (r) (s) (28238966)

1.15 Tree Top Raft. Scientists study the Amazon rainforest from above (r) (1823695) 2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5888492)

3.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather. Followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (Ceefax) (7518256) 3.55 News (Ceefax) (5574879) 4.00 Today's the Day (8) (814) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (898)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7168256) 5.40 The Sky at Night (r) (Ceetax) (s) (606904) 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. An atien entity wreaks merry mischief with the station's computer

(Ceefax) (s) (519256) 6.45 They Who Dare. Franch freefall champ, Patrick Gayardon, defies gravity (s) (112701)

7.00 Waiting for God (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3633) 7.30 First Sight: A Poor Law (527) WALES: 7.30 Ded's



The ups and downs of George Walker (5.00pm)

8.00 My Brilliant Career. George Walker, the former chief executive of the leisure condiomerate Brent Walker, takes about the fight to clear his name

8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld. Clarkson visits Cubs, home of the rusting Cadillac (Ceefax) (8)

Traces of Guilt. (Osefax) (s) (686614)9.50 Potted Histories. Cornectian Greg Proops reveals how to make your houseplants feel at home (Ceefac) (s) (202324)

10.00 Game On. Comedy series. (r) (Ceefex) (79527) 10.30 Newsnight. (Ceelax) (225508) 11.15 Late Review (s) (199879)

11.55 Weather (388481) 12.00 Midnight Hour (a) (89676)

12.30em-6.00 The Learning Zone

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CHOICE

Inside Story: A Peaceful Exit BBC1, 10.00pm

The case for euthanasia is put as forcefully as it could be by Jim and Bronwyn Stewart, the parents of a two-year-old boy with irreversible brain damage. At four months Ian Stewart underwent a major heart operation to save his life. The chance of brain damage was admitted but said to be remote. But Ian can barely was adminted but said to be remote. But lan can barrely see or hear and is in constant distress. His father has had to give up his job to help to look after him. The strain on the parents has been enormous. They have contemplated suicide, holding back only because of their other children. Although the law is against euthanasia, the Stewarts feel that public opinion is on their side. The film goes to the intimate heart of a dilemma that no family would want to have.



Stevie and Stuart treat the casualties (TV, 8.30pm)

Blues and Twos: Around Midnight TV. 8.30pm

There can be few less welcome shifts for an ambulance crew than Hogmanay in Edinburgh, as 250,000 reveilers cram the city to welcome in the new year. reveilers cram the city to welcome in the new year. Sure enough, the celebrations soon get out of control and paramedics Stevie and Stuart prepare for their busiest night of the year. The same is true of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, which by the small hours is trying to cope with more than 300 uninvited guests. It all makes pulsating footage for this first in a new series saluting the skill and bravery of the emergency services. They usually make the news when things and services. They usually make the news when things go wrong. Here there are no patients left waiting for ambulances or being shunted from hospital to hospital in the search for a bed. Professionalism rules.

Traces of Guilt: A Stranger Murder

The forensic science series comes up with a case so full of surprises, not to memion formidable detective work, that it will surely be turned into a feature film if one is not already in production. The discovery in the Vienna Woods of the naked body of a murdered prostitute not only launches the search for Austria's first serial killer but also has ramifications as far as Los Angeles, where mass must reminicators as let as 105 Augents. So called "stranger" killings, where the victim is unknown to the murderer, are particularly hard to solve. In this instance it took the hunch of a retired detective in Salzburg to supply the impens for an investigation that covered most of Austria and a wide area of California. The reconstruction is grippingly staged.

Peak Performance: Strike Force ITV. 7.30pm

David Platt, of Arsenal and England, is a footballer with the knack of appearing from nowhere to poach goals. He calls his skill instinctive but since this is a series about science it tries to offer more analytical explanations. The talents of Arsenal's other hitmen, lan Wright, Paul Merson and Dennis Bergkamp, are also dissected, often with revealing results. What the programme fails to mention is that the Gunners' strike force, despite the addition this season of the enormously expensive Platt and Bergkamp, continues modest goal tally compared with many other Premie League reams. Perhaps the scientific experts could be called back to explain why.

Peter Waymark called back to explain why.

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (2900256) 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (4446850) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) (6329492)

10.00 The Time . . . The Place (s) (1100188)

10.35 This Morning (57341898) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (6485237)

12.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (6799459) 12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (6767850) 1.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (32126695) 1.55 A Country Practice (s) (64489695) 2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (18192343)

2.50 NEW Our House. Suzi Becker tooks at unusual homes. This week she visits a new house built in the style of a 16th-century manor, an art deco home and a witches' commune in Droltwich (4636169)

3.20 TTN News headlines (Teletext) (2371343) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) (2370614) 3.30 The Riddlers (2194701) 3.40 Wizadora (r) (s) (7785324) 3.50 Rupert (1144324) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (s) (8265576) 4.40 Reboot II: Talent

Night. Computer animation (Teletext) (s) (7816275) 5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating (6259324) 5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (977904)

5.55 Your Shout. Viewers air their views (865121) 6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (817) 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (169) 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (7459)



Footballer David Platt spots the ball (7.30pm)

Peak Performance (s)

8.00 The Bill: Home Truths. After a vicious assault, family business. (Telelext) (3879)

8.30 Blues and Twos. (Teletext) (s) (5614)9.00 Teagart: Devil's Advocate. Episode two of the three-part drama. Isla McLennan's sudden

disappearance raises suspicions: is she the latest victim or the culprit? (Telelext) (6324) 10.00 ITN News at Ten (Teletext) (66053) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (426850)

10.40 FILM: The Golden Child (1986). Eddie Murchy has to recover a child who will bring good into the world but who is being held by a black magician. An absurd plot rescued from a late worse than boxoffice oblivion by the comic talent of Murphy. Also starring Charlotte Lewis and Charles Dance. Directed by Michael Ritchie. (Teletext) (s)

(74171817) 12.25am Live from the Lilydrome (r) (s) (9856763) 1.25 Not Fade Away (2662218) 2.25 Shift (6277676) 3.15 The Crime Hour presented by John Stalker and

Mary Nightingale (r) 4.10 On the Live Side (Teletext) (r) (84154299) 4.30 The Millionaires: Clever Trevor. A profile of the

4.00pm The Great Days of Our Century: October Bussian Bevolution (4770508) 5.00

former Radio 1 DJ Bruno Brookes (r) (85069454) 4.55 The Time . . . The Place (r) (s) (1752367) 5.30 ITN Morning News (77831)

CHANNEL 4

6.35em Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5073121) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (27362)

9.00 Fifteen To One (r) (Teletext) (s) (76430) 9.30 Stand Still, Be Fit (r) (s) (89492)

10.00 FILM: Miss Robin Hood (1952). Comedy starring the sublimely dotty Margaret Rutherford, with James Robertson Justice, Michael Medwin and Dora Bryan. Directed by John Guillermin. (8947091)

11.20 Pink and Blue Blues (9670072) 11.30 Living Memory: The 1970s (r) (7188)

12.00 House to House Political discussion (63966) 12.30pm Sesama Street (13275) 1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (r) (s) (76279546) 1.55 Stily Little Goose (17332904)

2.10 FiLM: Ladies in Love (1936, b/w). Romantic comedy-drama starting Janet Gaynor, Loretta Young and Constance Berinett who pool their savings to rent a plush apartment in Budapest to help them to find wealthy husbands. With Don Ameche and Tyrone Power Jr. Directed by Edward H. Griffith. (Teletext) (834904)

4.00 Backdate (Teleted) (s) (782) 4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s)(966)

6.30 New Gamesmaster. Dominik Diamond and Patrick Moore test the latest games and challenge celebrities to show off their computer skills (s) (411)

weather at 7.30 (700966)

7.50 The Stat. Viewers' opinions (768324)



Asthmatics Shahnaz and daughters (8.00pm)

8.00 The Pulse. Medical magazine. Shannaz Pakravan investigates a cure for asithma (Teletext) (a) (4121) 8.30 A Taste of the Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago. In the second of her six-part series Donnda Hafner cook Callaloo soup. Then she goes to Tobago and an African Culture Day of goat racing, singing and a

9.00 The Roswell Incident. Documentary charting the earie events of July 4, 1947, in the desert outside Roswell, New Mexico, when it seemed to many level-headed onlookers that aliens had landed (r).

10.00 FILM: Wedding Day Blues (1988). Fauding friends and family members sabotage what should have been a perfect wedding, turning it into a nightmare. Only the bridegroom and best man weather the storm of comic misunderstandings. With Cloris Leachman, Eileen Brennan and Scott Valentine. Directed by Paul Lynch. (Teletext)

11.45 Rory Bremmer, Apparently (r) (s) (303275)

1.35 FILM: Sitting in Limbo (1986) Documentary-style drama based on the real-life experiences of bur

1.30am Weather (2301163)

Vegamer (305237) 10330-10340 Centra News and Weather (426850) 4.10am Job-lander (3476812) 5.20 Asian Eya (3906096) GRANADA

(32127324) 2.20 Chan Letters (18192343) 2.50-3.20 Variessa (4836189) 3.25-3.30 HTV West Headines (2270514) 5.10-5.40 A Courny Practice (8259294) 6.25-7.00 HTV News (306277) 10.30-10.40 HTV West Headines and Weather (426950) 12.25mm Not Fade Away (9566763) 1.25 Shift (256218) 2.25 The Crime Hour (8269928) 3.20 An Evening with Placido Domingo (3390744) 4.30 The Time... the Place (14947) 5.00 The Naw Mr & Mrs Show (33527)

As HTV WEST except: 6.25-7.00 Wates Toropt: (508237) 7.30-8.00 Swenson Festi-val (463) 10.30-10.40 HTV Wates News and Managent (4095) 11.

MERIDIAN MERIDIAN

As London except: 9.55am Mendian News
and Wester: (82/2/02) 10.00-10.35 The
Time. The Piece (1100188) 12.20pm-12.30
Mendian News and Wester: 67485237 Mendian News and Wester: 67485237 Mendian News (21/2695) 1.25 Home
and Justic (21/2695) 1.25-2.20 Shortland
Street (64/89685) 2.50-3.20 Behind The
Scenes With Penetope Keyn (4938169) 3.253.30 Meridian News and Wester (21/0614)

5.10 Horas and Awey (8259324) 5.87-5.40 Three Minutes - Crimestoppers (825985) 8.00 Merclan Tonight (817) 6.30-7.00 Cettsways (169) 10.30-10.40 Menclan News and Westher (426950) 12.25am Not Face Awey (825973) 1.25 Smit (2562218) 2.26 The Crime Hour (8151270) 3.30 An Evening with Pieculo Domingo (67855) 4.30 The Time. the Piece (14947) 5.00 Freescreen (59522)

WESTCOUNTRY

12.55 Chein Letters (6767850) 1.25 Emmardele (3212696) 1.65-2.20 Home and Away (64489895) 2.50-3.20 A Country Practice (4536169) 3.25-3.30 Westcountry and Away (8259324) 8.00-7.00 Westcount Live (\$2035) 10.30-10.40 Westcount News, Weather (426850) 12.25am Not Fad News, Westner (#20050) 12_seam Not Ja-Away (9856758), 1.25 5.1th (2562218) 2.2 The Crime Hour (6258925) 2.20 An Evenin with Placido Domingo (5390744) 4.30 Th Thrp... the Place (14947) 5.00 The New Mr Mrs Show (59522) YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.55 Celander News and Weather (6329492) 10.00-10.35 The Time... the Piace (1100188) 12.20pm-12.30 Celander News and Weather (6485237) 1.55 Emmendale (76256965) 2.25 Variessa (18191614) 3.25-3.30 Yorkstire: Celander

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakdast (27362) 9.00
Fitness To Cine (76430) 9.30 Startd Still Be Fit (89482) 10.00 Fitn: Mass Robin Hood (8947091) 11.29 Pink- And Blue Blues (8977091) 11.29 Pink- And Blue Blues (870072) 11.20 Pink- And Blue Blues (870072) 11.30 80 Years: The 1903 (7188) 12.00pm House To House (63666) 12.30 Macdeine (60506) 1.00 Still Metrikin (87721) 1.30 Fitn: Tin Part Alloy (13004850) 3.15 Fitott Lake (5974459) 4.00 Beokdate (782) 4.30 Tinvetiog (806) 3.00 5 Pump Uned 5 (5237) 5.30 Countdown (546) 4.00 Newyddion (306966) 8.15 Heno (158071) 7.00 Pobol Y Cern (451862) 7.25 Pwy Di Pwy? (819275) 8.00 Cyw Haul (421) 8.30 Newyddion (3266) 8.15 Heno (158071) 7.00 Pobol Y Cern (451862) 7.25 Pwy Di Pwy? (819275) 8.00 Cyw Haul (421) 8.30 Newyddion (3266) 8.00 A 55 (49687 10.00 Wy Alicus (64605) 10.30 Fith Kes (80295237) 12.33mm Dispetches (2118522)

SKY NEWS

SKY MOVIES

8.00mm They Died With Their Boots On (1941) (23973053) 8.20 Gigé (1968) (74002072) 10.20 I Spy Returns (1963) (48775514) 12.00 Pussping Joon The Women (1963) (15053) 2.00pm The Helicopter Spies (1967) (85342) 4.00 True

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4em.

5.00em Under the Umbrella Tree (31116140)

6.30 Fraggle Rock (36820102) 7.00 New
Advertures of Winne the Pooh (66276889)

7.30 Duckales (81026969) 8.00 Chip in

Date Reacue Rangers (48974896) 8.30

Advertures in Wonderland (48978986) 8.30

Advertures in Wonderland (48978986) 8.30

Under the Umbrella Tree (4225594) 10.30

Fraggle Rock (4996430) 11.30 Mappel

Bebies (69252614) 11.30 Welcome to Poch
Comer (5825343) 12.00 Cuack Attack
(49977782) 12.30pm Dumbo's Circus
(12244594) 1.00 Adventures in Wonderland
(711215301 1.30 The Sinhad Show
(13594035) 2.00 The Torkelsons (2036253)

2.30 Fearne Tale Theptic (18811862) 3.30

New Adventures of Winne the Poch
(63410742) 4.90 Quack Attack (17280039)

4.30 Duckales (2536489) 6.00 Crap in

Dela Rescue Rangers (2036633) 5.30

Denger Bay (68239783) 6.00

Fuscan
(23064165) 6.30 Denosaurs (16830553) 7.00

FLUI: Menace on the Mountain (67837072)

8.30-18.00 Massa: Special (41895508)

EUROSPORT 7.30am Raily Raid (59825) 8.00 Equest-nensm (85508) 8.00 Lee Bighlon (58782) 11.00 Eurosia (24148) 11.30 Lee Alpine Sking (24169) 1.00pm Blathon (39865) 2.00 Snowboesting (1594) 2.30 Cer on los (9091) 8.00 Snooker (87063) 4.30 Footbell (50506) 5.30 Live Handbell (856614) 8.30 Feb/ Raid (9985) 6.00 Pro Wrasiling (18666) 10.00 Bowng (11053) 11.00 Strength (58306) 12.00-12.30am Raily Raid (58744)

7.00am Scots Centre (94072) 7.30 Pacing



Notes (80879) 8.00 Wresting Superstars (83140) 8.00 Aerobics Oz Styte (76017) 9.30 Grass Roots Rugby (49546) 10.00 to Warners (29762) 12.00 Cricket South Aéros v England (190996) 8.25 Sports Centre (50987) 8.30 World Masters Cricket (8097) 10.00 Sty Sports Centre (83482) 10.90 Tight Lines (78941) 11.30 Cricket Highlights (97259) 1.30 World of Rugby Union (69034) 2.00-2.30 Sports Centre (63947) SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Rugby (4157121) 8.00 Netbusters (4173166) 9.00 Ford Scorpic Golf USA (4176256) 11.00 Rugby (7749782) 12.00-1.00em Netbusters (5292183) SKY SOAP

7.00em Guiding Light (7569255) 7.85 As the World Turns (9294275) 8.50 Payton Place (2400131) 9.20 Days of Our Lives (7662614) 10.10-11.00 Another World (1527625) SKY TRAVEL

Rough to Prection (4790995) 12.00 Discov

THE SCHI CHANNEL 1.00em Swemp (5624742) 1.30 Ray Brad-bury 2.00 FILM: Killer Bees (9024305) 3.30-4.00 The Making of Speces (3993657) TLC 11.00 The Partied House (515469) 11.30 Aufa Child (576440) 12.90pm The Frugal Gournet (7125072) 1.00 Yan Can Cook (8297324) 1.30 Local Heroes (7124343) 2.00 Dogs With Durber (2641411) 2.30 Secret Gardens (1926275) 3.00 Two? Country (266545) 3.30-4.00 This Old House (1990452)

7.00em Angels (8290411) 7.30 Neighbours (8219546) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (8753411) 8.30 EastEnders (675782) 9.00 The Bill (6776962) 9.30 The Sulfwars (7139614) 10.00 All Creatures Great and Small (8209430) 11.00 Dales (8295966) 12.00 Sections (87659986)

TCC

Sourmet (5130324) 1.00 Around the World NICKELODEON

5.00 Ricki Lake (7314545) 5.45 Terrytoons followed by Murun Buchstansangur. (974817)
6.00 Home Improvement: Blow Up. American cornedy series. (Teletext) (s) (459)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) including headlines and



communal cook-up. (Teletext) (3256)

(Teletext) (s) (4965)

12.50am Dispatches (r) (Teletext) (2137015)

black teenagers living in Montreal. Directed by John N. Smith (Teletext) (162676), Ends at 3.15

SATELLITE

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.55 Specal Babies
(5767850) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away
(32126695) 2.50-3.20 Chain Letters
(4636169) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street
(6259324) 6.25 Anglia Weether (300879)
6.30-7.00 Anglia News (169) 12.25eas Not
Fatte Away (9686763) 1.25 Shuf (2552218)
2.25 The Crime Hour (626628) 3.20 An
Evening with Placido Domingo (3390744)
4.30 The Time Life Place (14947) 5.90 The

CENTRAL

HTV WEST HTV WED Average 12.65 Shortland Street (9768053) 1.20 Coronation Street (3727324) 2.20 Chan Letters (18192343) 3.25-3.30

HTV WALES

News, Weather (2370614) 5.10-5.40 Horn

News and Wester (2005) 12-American Fant A Smell (Bling (2489538) 2.10 Not Fade Away (5197522) 3.10 Shibt (3776454) 4.05 Champions: Where Are They Now? (78537473) 4.35 Jobsinder (2735270)

• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday SKY ONE

SRY ONE

7.00sex The DJ Kat Show (53986) 8.00
Power Rangers (15543) 8.30 Press Your
Luck (14614) 9.00 Court TV (80986) 9.30 The
Opren Wirkey Show (25546) 18.30 Concenration (94855) 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael
(46411) 12.00 Jeopardyl (18430) 12.30pm
Muphy Brown (45072) 1.00 The Wattons
(40927) 2.00 Geraldo (82360) 3.00 Court TV
(8237) 3.30 The Opreh Wirdery Show
(223941) 4.15 Undur (4912865) 5.00 Star
Treic The Next Generation (2817) 8.00 The
Simpsons (8508) 6.20 Jeopardyl (3148)
7.00 LAPO (5546) 7.30 M*A*S*P1 (9072)
8.00 Due South (72140) 8.00 The Comment
(95091) 11.00 Law and Order (67904)
12.00 Cevid Letterman (8504015) 12.45 The
Unrouchebies (6598216) 1.30 The Edge
(83215) 2.00-6.00 Ht Min (8803522)
SKY NEWS

Naus on the hour cases (\$386879) 10.30 ABC Nightine (\$2492) 11.00 World News and Business (400931) 1.30pm CSS News (\$7362) 2.30 Pedament Live (\$6255) 3.30 Pedament Live (\$6255) 3.30 Pedament Live (\$6255) 3.30 Pedament Live (\$6255) 3.30 Pedament Live (\$6304) 6.30 Tonight with Adam Bouton (\$8430) 8.30 Worldwide Report (\$343) 9.00 World News and Business (725985) 1.30 CSS News (\$6904) 12.30em ABC News (29980) 1.30 Tonight with Adam Bouton Replay (\$6783) 2.30 Newsmelser (70560) 3.30 Pedament Replay (\$2305) 4.30 CBS News (\$6812) 5.30-6.00 ABC News (19831) SKY MCV/TES

4.00pm The Rose Tattoo (1955) (6053) 5.00 Failing in Love (1964) (75275) 8.00

6.00am For the First Time (1959) (65463) 8.00 The Febudous Adventures of Baron Manylesseen (23072) 10.00 Easy to Love (1953) (47430) 12.00 Touch of Truth (1994) (13655) 2.00pm A Girl in Every Port (1951) (84965) 4.00 The Febudous Adven-hares of Baron Manchatusen (8091) 6.00 Touch of Truth (1994) (64121) 8.00 Ace Venture: Pet Defective (1994) (25527) 9.30 The Horis Show (56546) (0.00 Short Cuts (1995) (8915) 2751 1.05em Contine

Smail (8208430) 11.00 Dales (8295966)
12.00 Sons and Daughters (8763987)
12.20 Sons and Daughters (8763987)
12.20pm Neighbours (7127430) 1.00 EastEnders (8299782) 1.30 The Bill (718701)
2.00 The Sulvivars (67365527) 2.25 Are Your
Beng Sarved? (2397430) 3.00 Angels (2562904) 3.30 Edorado (1962950) 4.00 Casually 53776121) 3.55 Generation Gerne (7883989) 8.15 Kenny's Comic Cuts (802614) 8.25 EastEnders (7832529) 7.00 Edorado (2654985) 7.30 Hoppy Ever Alter (1918989) 8.00 George and Affidred (2659853) 8.30 Horne James (2642140) 9.00 Minder (4919121) 19.00 The Bill (9597140) 10.35 Classic Sport (8398343) 11.35 KYTV (2010512) 12.10em Dr Who (4721396) 12.40 FILM: Beyond & Resemble Doubt (88778560) 2.05 Shopping
TCCC

UK GOLD

2.30 Jim Henson (5053) 3.00 Sonic (8411) 3.30 Pink Panther (7898) 4.00 California (9633) 4.30-5.00 Sweet Valley High (5617)

Bartini. (7404324) 7.06 Grimmy (6178896) 7.45 Nacisson Breatdast Feast (1367701) Berlink. (7404324) 7.05 Girmmy (8178898) 7.45 Nickson Brestdast Feast (1367701) 9.00 Awin (76089) 9.30 Pee-Wee (47188) 10.00 Benans Sandwich (56643) 11.00 Children's BBC (97169) 12.00 Mage School Bus (13633) 12.30pm Grmmy (41904) 1.00 Global Guts (91985) 1.30 Vistonanes (40275) 2.00 Children's BBC (52568) 3.00 The Lutiest Pet Shop (2985) 3.30 Hero Tutles (4762) 4.00 The Ferals (3817) 4.30 Rugrats (2701) 5.00 Sister Sister (7140) 5.30 Nancy Drew (3053) 6.00 Ren and Sumpy (5985) 6.30 Pete and Pete (4546) 7.00 The Colyssey (7604) 7.30-8.00 Dracula (3430)

DISCOVERY

BRAYO

12.00 FLM. Plan 9 from Cuter Space (8911275) 1.30pm Death Valley Days (7129169) 2.00 Danger Man (7519782) 3.00 The Buccaneers (2857072) 3.30 William Tel (1927646) 4.00 FLM. I'm All Right Jack. With Peter Sellers, Richard Attentionough and lan Carmichael (2868168) 6.00 Dead at 21 (1916430) 6.30 Jason King (3421922) 7.30 The Protectors (190366) 8.00 Space 1999 (4924053) 9.00 The Protectors (14944817) 10.00-12.00 FLM Portey's (5145411) HK I IMMING UK LIVING

the Restless (5162275) 9.00 Fil.M. Latte White Lies (6745956) 11.00-12.00 Sec (6751121)

FAMILY CHANNEL

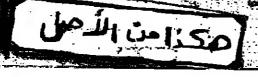
Naon Rider (88188) 12.00 Tintin (82314) 12.30am Bordentown (67928) 1.00 Belmen (56056) 1.30 Rhoda (70164) 2.00 Big Brother Jake (83855) 2.30 Neon Rider (36164) 3.30 Rhoda (77164) 4.00 Big Brother Jake (88657) 4.30-5.00 Ocean 8.00am Awaka (85986) 7.20 The Grind (81633) 8.00 3 from 1 (8918053) 8.15 Awaka (2219986) 9.00 Videos (209817) 12.00 Soul (86895) 1.00pm Hrs (77343) 2.00 Musc Non-Stop (4486481) 3.15 3 from 1 (3847985) 3.30 Sports (9255) 4.00 Chematic 4.15 Hanging Out (4213140) 5.30 News 5.15 Hanging Out (4213140) 5.30 Dal MTV (8527) 6.00 Boom! (64879) 7.00 Hanging Out (72188) 8.08 Has (58508) 9.00 The Worst of Most Wanted (34430) 9.30 Guide to

Worst of Most Wanted (34430) 9.30 Guide to Atternative Music (48850) 10.30 Beavis and Butt-Head (38988) 11.30 News 11.15 Chemaric (858695) 11.30 Aeon Plur (50275) 12.00 The Pulse (76164) 12.30mm The End? 7.00am Power Breakfast (7761904) 9.00 Caté (8625850) 12.00 Heart and Sout (5151877;1.00pm viryl 61370377;2.00 Nel and Tim Finn (8900071;5.1370377;2.00 Nel and Tim Finn (8900071;5.00 linn) to the Music (225259) 6.00 Del Ameri (5140701) 7.00 VH-1 for You (4168679) 8.00 Review (4175527) 9.00 Kreity McColl (4188091) 10.00 Viryl (4158650) 11.00 The Bridge (8447546) 1.00am Right Said Fred (2490270) 2.00 Dewn Patrol

ZEE TV.

7.00am Asien Morning (36096966) 8.30 Yule Love Sones (1395594) 9.00 Tamil FILM-Araro Antaro (90740633) 12.00 Delth Bhai Delth (18955590) 12.30pm India Show (53274701) 1.00 Hindi FILM (62508343) 4.00 Zee Top Ten (42733411) 6.00 Zee Zone (37325091) 8.30 Punjabi Ficik (111181860) 6.00 Countdown to Cricker (11111091) 6.30 Zee and U (1102343) 7.00 Antaleshan (373125277 7.30 Galaccee (11108527) 8.00 News (37321275) 8.30 Andas (37300782) 9.00 Urchi Sertal: Kachey Dragey (57152343) 10.00 Zee Honor Show 10.30 You Zingdeg (22400409) 11.00 Command-Your Zingdagi (22400409) 11.00 Commu-er (42734140) 11.30-12.00 Srl Krishna CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Cartoons from 5am to 7pm; TNT films, 7.00pm The Cantervilla Chost (199 (32476427) 9.00 Shoes of the Fisherm (1988) (73429053) 11.50 Of Hamsel Hea (1988) (8323324) 2.45-5.00m; Bioti



CRICKET 38

ILLINGWORTH READY TO RING IN THE CHANGES FOR ENGLAND

SP()KI

RUGBY UNION 41

SCOTLAND KEEP **FAITH WITH** TRIED AND TESTED

FA chose

to ignore

warning

signs

BY PETER BALL

PERHAPS the greatest sur-prise in Terry Venables's deci-sion to stand down as England

coach is not his failure to gain support from the Football Association (FA) now, but the fact that he was given the

position at all. If his troubles

off the field show no sign of ending, they were visible be-

I think there are many cople who would like to see

Venables as England manag-

er, but he has this funny reputation," Sir Bert

said on January 13, 1994.

Three days later, even though The Financial Times had pub-

lished an article questioning

if Venables should be appoint-

pean championship draw, "it would be a marvellous publi-

City stunt". Sadly, much of Venables's

publicity since then has under-

appointed as England coach,

the war with Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chair-

man, had already reached the

courts, Venables failing in his

attempt to regain control of the club. A Panorama pro-

the purchase of Tottenham.

Doubts had been raised about the £200,000 paid to Gino Santin over the transfer

of Paul Gascoigne. It was

That became the subject of a

Edennote. Venables's com-

pany which was at the centre of his purchase of Tottenham,

from Tottenham in May 1994.

however, continued to linger.

and Scribes West, his club.

has also been involved in his

Venables is being sued by

Sugar for libel after state-

ments in his autobiography.

while Venables, himself, in-

tends to resort to the courts to

clear his name with writs

against Panorama among

financial problems.

The costs of his court cases.

1222

连续点点

Section 1

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THURSDAY JANUARY 11 1996

Coach to stand down after European championship to concentrate on court battles

Venables leaves FA in muddle over England

times of Terry Venables has the fictional quality of an episode of EastEnders that one resitates even now to accept as he will be the England coach only until the country is eliminated - or victorious - in the European championship this

So much of the Football Association's thinking is more muddled than any soap opera that one wonders whether the FA wants him, trusts him or can cope with the litigation and innuendo around him For all the apparent logic in Venables's statement last night, in which he said he must give his time in the autumn to fighting Alan Sug-ar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, in the High Court, the legal implications were known at Lancaster Gate be fore he even crossed the threshold. So, if resignation after Euro % is irreversible, is it a premature announcement,

never when it comes to Venables. One often has to read between the lines of his statements and his actions. "In e circumstances, the things 've got ahead could be probematical." he said with understatement yesterday. "Around October or November lwhen England play vital World Cup qualifying games I could be in

I Literary hack-work world

15 Old medican-distance club

22 One from North East Spain

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SOLUTION TO No 674

22 Informal 23 Oral 24 Sensuous

and solution will appear on Wednesday.

ACROSS: 1 Mitigate 5 Odds 8 Castaway 9 Bung 11 Eiegy 12 Measles 13 Hazard 15 Proton 18 Selfish 19 Colon 21 Lair

DOWN: I Macbeth 2 Taste 3 Gravy train 4 Trauma 6 Doublet

7 Sages 10 Capricious 14 Zuleika 16 Nonplus 17 Whinge 18 Salvo

British Midland's domestic or international

17 Brilliant distinction (5)

23 Crime and Punishment

18 Droplet-prayer (7)

21 Indian kin-tent (5)

aptitor (19)

7 Instance (7)

S. Unseeing (5)

10 Tidy: instructed (7)

11 Diagram, map (5)

12 Flight to safety (b)

court, and that's something I feel I have to do. It may be a bit of an embarrassment for the my employers, it would be no problem. But there will always be people who say that it is a distraction ... but this makes me even more determined to leave the job on a successful note. I will do everything in

VENABLES'

Date	Result
Mar 9, 1994	England i Denmark ()
May 17, 1994	England 5 Greeco 0
May 22, 1934	England 0 Norway 0
Sept 7, 1994	England 2 US 0
Oct 12, 1994	England I Romana 1
Nov 16 1994	England i Nigeria O
Mar 29, 1996	England O Uruguay O
June J. 1995	England 2 Japan 1
Jung 8 1995	England 3 Sweden 3
June 11, 1995	England 1 Brazil 3
Sept 6, 1995	England 0 Colombia 0
Oct 11 1995	Nomey 0 England 0
Nov 15, 1995	England 3 SwitzerInd 1
Dec 12, 1995	England i Portugal i
	s compares to former
England coa	ches after 14 games

power to make it so." The fact is that Venables and the FA are announcing their parting of the ways before anything in the football sense is proven for or against him. They gave him a contract, an act of faith when he was out of work and even then entangled in a legal quagmire, up to and including the European

(Impressive, splendid (5)

5 Tombstone message (7)

9 On which one signs (6.4)

13 Greek nymph: Caribbean

14 NHS customer: virtuous as

6 Plot resolution (10)

3 Solid, constant, regular (b) 4 D. Du Maurier novel: wife

2 Higher (5)

of Isaac (7)

40ng (7)

Griselda (7)

16 Socially awkward (6)

19 Old property tax (5)

28 Foolish: close (cricket) (5)

CROSSWORD

No 675 in association with

BRITISH MIDLAND

championship. Why should anyone expect that he has have cost the FA the better part of £500,000?

You cannot judge a man after 14 uncompetitive matches. The record of only six wins, only 20 goals and, indeed, only one defeat, tells us little. because the word friendly has been paramount to his work and that of the opposition. Friendly implies experimentation, it denotes that the result need not necessarily be counted, that both managers are searching for rhythm, teamwork, using the play as a platform for the future.

I will declare my hand. I would not, on the basis of a series of friendly games, reappoint any manager, any coach, and I would be greatly concerned by the allegations regularly as London buses, with Venables. The FA seems the beginning when, two years ago. Sir Bert Millichip, its ageing chairman, stated that Venables would be coach "over my dead body", and promptly helped to appoint him. Alas, Millichip's legacy for, at 82, he has given

summer — is another muddle. Millichip was ready to extend the contract, but neither he nor anyone has a clue who will succeed him as chairman. How, then, could Millichip football in England would

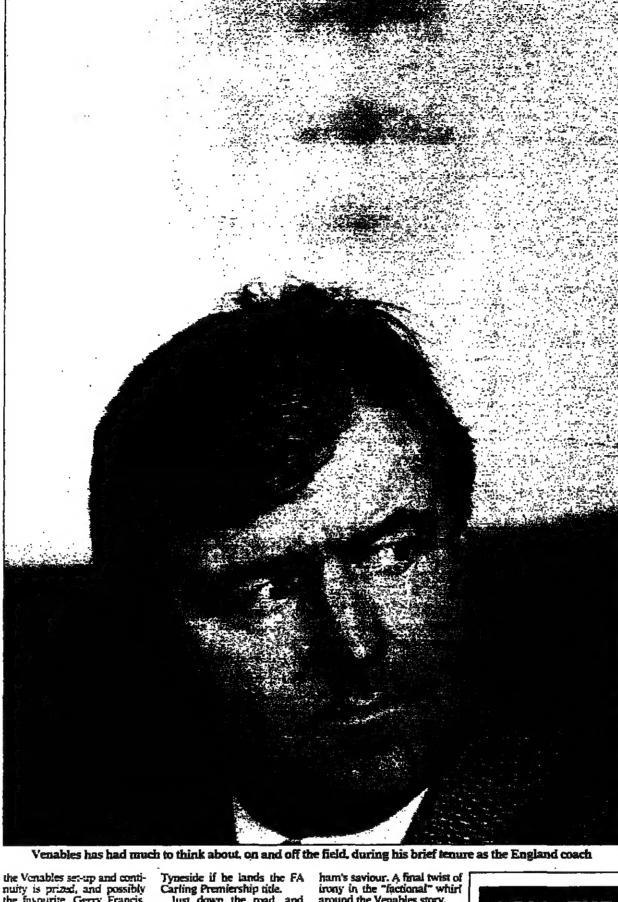
notice that he will retire this

support the reappointment? The priority at Lancaster FA must move quicker than usual and accelerate the nomination of the next chairman before it even contemplates the new coach. It is no good calling Ian Stott and Noel White, two members of the 15-man international committee, Judases for their public disquiet over the way the media and Sir Bert appeared to be hastening towards a new contract for Venables. Rather, these two might be seen as the two wise men of the committee, the two reasonable and

questioning minds.

The whole of football would prefer to isolate the football man, and not the beleaguered private man, and get behind Venables. "They should have left him alone to do his job," Fred Venables, Terry's father. said on Radio 5 Live yesterday. Terry is a football man, I don't think they can get anyone in this country better than him, and now they'll have to

Indeed they will. Immediate candidates who come to mind are Kevin Keegan, for his flair and inspiration, Bryan Rob-



the favourite. Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, who can organise players into a team beyond their technical

deficiencies. What makes Francis a very likely and credible replacement is the firming. His reluctance throughout his managerial career to sign lengthy curiracts means that he will be free man at the moment the FA need someone in June. Keegan is tied to a tenyear contract with Newcastle United, has just built a home on the club chairman's estate.

knew what was happening when they took him on and

knew the situation all along.

"One has to make sure that

your lifestyle is such that

people can't get at you and

Terry has been exposed in this area. Terry's problem is that

he hasn't had competitive

Bryan Hamilton, the Nor-

them Ireland manager, said:

Terry Venables is a very

talented football coach and he

hasn't had the easiest of jobs

as England manager.

Just down the road, and some way behind in aspiration, is Robson. His commitment to Middlesbrough and his coaching experience with England are in their infancy. And even his presence inside Venables's team cannot compensate for the lack of experience. Keegan might be the ideal person to cope with the media circus but Francis is

available if willing. Sugar, having driven out Venables and continued to hound him, would thus be deprived of the club manager

around the Venables story. it is not yet goodbye, not even au revoir. It is clarification of what the original contract offered, a chance to guide England to the European championship. "Do what you gona do, sunshine," Fred Venables said in Dagenham last night. "Don't worry about Terry, he can take them all right. In the purely footballing sense, one can only hope there is something in this parental plea.

> Final decision, page 1 Hughes recall, page 40

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TERRY VENABLES'S decision to stand down this summer shocked many within the domestic game. Players and managers were quick to praise the England coach and to reflect on the problems that his post carried with it.

Craig Brown, his Scotland counterpart, said: "I have the utmost respect for Terry as a coach and that's all that matters - 1 am not concerned about off-the-field matters.

"Of course, international managers are conscious of the image that they must portray and the fact that we have to uphold traditions, and I'm sure that Terry acts with honesty and integrity."

Brown might play a part in bringing Venables's reign to an early close if his side were to prevent England from qualifying for the knockout stages of the championships when they meet at Wembley in June. "England will be a very difficult game for us in the European championships due in great part to Terry's skill as a coach," he said. Bobby Gould, the Wales

manager, said: "Terry played

at the top level and has been a

manager a long time. The FA

Lineker: does not think England's chances this to build up the team towards the European champion-ships. What has gone on with the FA is his own private matter."

Darren Anderton was "shocked and saddened" by the news. The England midfield player, signed by Venables when he was manager of Tottenham Hotspur. said: "Terry is the best coach I have ever worked with and almost certainly the best in the country. It seems a strange decision. It's sad because



of competitive games

Gould: feels Venables struggled due to lack

Respect for past, fears for future

up to Euro '96."
Two former England forwards now working in the media were equally concerned. Trevor Brooking felt that it left the FA in a difficult position with regard to appointing a successor. "It's a great shame about the timing," he said. "I don't think Kevin Keegan would want to leave Newcastle with

them in their current position

and Bryan Robson is just

settling in at the Riverside. English football finds itself in a horrendous position." Gary Lineker said: "I don't think Terry's decision will affect our Euro '96 chances We faced the same situation in the 1990 World Cup, when we knew that Bobby Robson would be quitting at the end of the competition. The real worry is qualifying for the

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, said: "I can't think of anyone who could do the job any better. Whoever takes it ends up getting slaughtered and they get nothing but grict."

1998 World Cup."

Redknapp is a 50-1 outsider for the post and added: "I'm definitely not in the running. I'd like to live a few years yet."

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